

The Japan Weekly Mail.

A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART.

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CONTENTS.

SUMMARY OF NEWS	49
WEEKLY NOTES	50
NOTES	51
LEADING ARTICLES:—	
The Japanese Civil Service	58
Japan's Critics	59
THE BANKS OF EUROPE	60
NOTIFICATION NO. 1 OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE	62
NOTIFICATION NO. 1 OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	63
THE NAKASENDO RAILWAY LOAN AND EXCHANGE BONDS	64
WEEK OF PRAYER	64
MEETING OF THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE	65
IN H.I.G.M.'S CONSULAR COURT	66
THE SILK TRADE OF JAPAN	67
LATEST TELEGRAMS	69
METEOROLOGICAL REPORT	69
CHESS	69
SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE	70
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE	71

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 1884.

BIRTH.

At Sapporo, Yezo, on January 8th, 1884, the wife of Professor W. P. BROOKS, Imperial College of Agriculture, of a Daughter.

DEATH.

At the German Hospital, on the 16th inst., at 3.45 a.m., ERNST ADOLF FRANZ REIMERS, native of Hamburg, in his 36th year, son of the late Wolf Reimers, Esq., of Hamburg.

On the 18th instant, at No. 45, Bluff, Yokohama, ARCHIBALD HAMBLIN L. COLE, aged 42 years, eldest son of the late Hon. and Rev. W. G. Cole, of Trinity College, Dublin.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

It is stated that the attack on Bac-ninh will take place on the 28th instant.

At the recent fire in Osaka, one policeman and three firemen were severely injured, and 140 persons are reported hurt.

THE working of the amended Conscription Regulations is producing some discontent throughout the Empire.

A SUBMARINE cable has been completed, connecting Kotomo, in Hizen, with Pusan, in Korea. It is announced that the line will be open for public use from February the 15th.

TOKIYO and Yokohama were visited by the first snow-fall of the season on the night of the 17th instant. The snow began to fall at about 11.30 p.m., and did not cease till a short time before dawn, when a depth of from three to four inches was measured in Tokiyo.

ONE hundred and twenty-one houses, in Kobiki-cho, were destroyed, and seventeen injured, by fire in the afternoon of the 17th instant. This district is inhabited by persons of the poorer

classes, and great distress was caused by the conflagration. A fire-man fell through the roof of a burning house and was badly hurt.

At 3 a.m. on the morning of the 18th instant, a fire broke out in a store in the second ward of Mita, Tokiyo. Two hundred and seventy-five houses were reduced to ashes, and nineteen partially burned.

A TELEGRAM from Kashidzuka, in Shidzu-oka Prefecture, reports that at 4 o'clock a.m. on the 16th instant, a fire broke out in a theatre, in Togi-ya Street, and destroyed more than 330 houses. Thirteen people lost their lives, and several were injured.

THE man who was recently reported to have murdered a woman in Kanda, mistaking her for his wife, of whom he was jealous, has been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment with hard labor.

THE performance at the Gaiety Theatre by the French Amateurs, announced for this evening, has been postponed to Thursday next,

AN accident happened on Thursday afternoon on board the British bark *Cross Hill*. A lad named Green, whilst at work on the main-yard, lost his hold, and fell to the deck, striking the rail in his descent. He is reported not hurt and progressing favourably. It is almost a miracle that he had no bones broken.

THE details of the negotiations in Paris show, as was explained by us some weeks ago, that the Cabinet at Paris is willing to take for the northern limit of French occupation in Tonquin, a line passing through Bac-ninh and Son-tai. China, however, seems disposed to insist upon maintaining the Red River as a line of demarcation.

THE special correspondent of the London *Daily News*, who spent some time in Japan last autumn, telegraphed to that journal an account of an interview he had with the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, on which occasion the latter declared that his Government is very desirous of opening the whole country to foreign commerce.

FURTHER intelligence goes to contradict the report that Son-tai was sacked by the French, as well as to show that the Chinese troops took no part in the defence. The *North China Herald*, however, publishes an account from which it appears that the French executed the prisoners taken at Son-tai, and that a leader of the Black Flags, having been wounded in the thigh and brought before Admiral Courbet, was immediately shot by the Admiral's orders. The same account says that 37 Chinese sailors, the crew of a junk which was discovered in the act of conveying arms concealed under bales of cotton, were beheaded within a few hours of their capture. Whatever may be the rights and wrongs of the war in Tonquin, it is evident, if these reports be trustworthy, that France's method of conducting the campaign must have the effect of giving a

serious shock to the reputation of Western civilization, and of alienating the sympathies of all civilized peoples.

A FIRE is reported to be burning in the Takashima Coal mine.

SOME excitement has been caused in the Settlement by the arrest of two Swiss gentlemen, Messrs. Ludwig and Trueb, on a charge of obtaining money from two local banks under false pretences.

It is stated that the competitive exhibition of Japanese paintings will be held at Uyeno, Tokiyo, in April.

It is rumoured that the new Railway Bonds of the Japanese Government will be issued at 90. This would make the rate of interest $7\frac{7}{10}$ per cent.

A VERNACULAR journal says that the Yokohama Specie Bank has realized a profit of six hundred thousand yen in connection with appreciation of *Kinsatsu*.

THERE is talk of a line of steamers being placed on the Yokohama-Kobe route to compete with the vessels of the Mitsu Bishi and Union Steam Navigation Companies.

THE total number of criminals sentenced by Japanese Courts during the first half of 1883 was 36,507, of whom 33,979 were males and 2,528 females. The number of capital punishments during the same period was 28, viz., 24 males and 4 females.

A CONSIDERABLE export of rice is said to be in process from Ise.

THE recent fracas between the military and the police at Osaka has been the cause of the death of one soldier, and four others are reported seriously wounded. The general opinion is that the custom of allowing soldiers to wear side-arms is to blame for this trouble, no less than for many similar disturbances in the past.

THE British barque *Sattara*, 940 tons register, has gone ashore on the Totomi coast, in the Tsuruga Gulf. There is no hope whatever of saving the ship.

A HEAVY fall of snow in reported from Niigata.

THE loss of a British steamer, the *Nisero*, off the coast of Acheen, and the capture of her crew by the natives are reported. The most strenuous exertions have been made by the Dutch Government to obtain the release of the prisoners, but hitherto without success. We learn, also, that some French naturalists who, despite the warnings of the Dutch authorities, persisted in conducting scientific researches in Acheen, have been massacred by the natives.

ABOUT eleven o'clock on Saturday morning, Yoshihama-bashi, the small temporary bridge crossing the canal near the Japanese Iron Works at Ishikawa, which has been in a very dangerous state for some months, gave way. Fortunately

only two persons were precipitated into the water, and neither of them were injured.

THE President of the United States, in his message to Congress, said:—"The question of the general revision of the foreign treaties of Japan has been considered in an international conference held at Tokio, but without definite result at yet. This Government is disposed to concede the requests of Japan to determine its own tariff duties, to provide such proper judicial tribunals as may commend themselves to the Western Powers for the trial of causes to which foreigners are parties, and to assimilate the terms and duration of its treaties to those of other civilized States."

INCENDIARISM has been rife in the capital during the week; several arrests have been made, and the police succeeded in extinguishing no less than nine fires (obviously the work of incendiaries) before they attained serious dimensions. At half-past three in the morning of the 15th instant, a fire broke out in a well-known restaurant called Ota-ya, near the iron bridge at Shinbashi. Seventeen houses were totally destroyed and three partially consumed before the flames were controlled.

A LITTLE after midnight of the same day (15th) a conflagration occurred on the site of the former Industrial Exhibition (*Kanko-ba*), in Kanda, Tokiyo. The site had been purchased, on the 29th of December, for a sum of 1,560 yen, by one Jô-ya Chobei, whose purpose was to erect a smithy there. There being a go-down already on the lot, its new owner sent there, as caretaker, a man called Sashio Riusuke. The latter was accompanied by his wife, a woman of thirty-two, and their daughter, a child of eight. The front of the go-down had been closed, and the windows hermetically sealed, so that the only available exit was in the rear. This, however, was completely in the possession of the flames before the attention of the inmates was aroused, and the three unfortunates were burned to death.

WEEKLY NOTES.

RUMOUR is very busy about the origin of the fire at Shinbashi on the 15th instant, and on this occasion her testimony is sufficiently uniform to be credible. Ota-ya, the house where the fire broke out, was a restaurant where both foreign and Japanese viands were provided, and where the strictest social virtues are not supposed to have been uniformly practiced by all comers. On Tuesday night, it is said, three Japanese, on the eve of their departure from Tokiyo, and two foreigners, described as residents of Tsukiji, hired a boat, and went a-pleasuring on the river, not unaccompanied, we may presume, by the usual elements of conviviality. Returning very late to the restaurant, and growing somewhat weary of the sound of the *Samisen* and the sport of *Ken*, the five sat down to a good solid game of draw poker, not taking much trouble to set any special limits to the betting. In what particular fashions the cards combined themselves, whether straight flushes encountered fours, or a "bobtail" collided against a "full," the police have not discovered, but, at any rate, somebody having bounced somebody else to the tune of fifty dollars, was bounced back again to the extent of five hundred, and not being provided with specie to that amount, re-inforced his previous bet with a brass candlestick which he discharged at the head of the gentleman that

"jumped so hard." The candlestick, at the highest point of its trajectory, encountered a kerosene lamp, and the two coming down together, "bust up" the game and fifteen or sixteen houses at the same time. Poker is a nice amusement, but in mixed societies, where gentlemen are not averse to adding brass candlesticks and kerosene lamps to their piles, there is just a chance that the *partie* may lead to unexpected developments.

It is stated that the term of office for Japanese Prefects will be increased from ten to twenty years. Originally the term was only four years, and as we cannot recall any case of a Prefect whose tenure of office exceeded that period, we are disposed to think that the contemplated change, if indeed it be really contemplated, will have little practical effect.

It is not so long since California's clamour against the ruin of cheap labour forced the Congress of a country which boasts itself the personification of freedom to pass a law diametrically opposed to all the principles of liberty. Yet we find that California is already beginning to feel the want of the hands she drove away, and to cry out for the cheap labour she so recently denounced. From the moment that the celebrated (shall we say infamous?) act became law, the Chinese settled in California knew that for ten years a monopoly was secured to them. Proverbially they are a shrewd people, not slow to realize and avail themselves of the advantages of a position. Quietly, therefore, but resolutely and steadily, they began to take the market in hand, until, in less than two years, wages went up from fifty to a hundred per cent. At first the good folks of the Pacific slope seem to have struggled against this tyranny, but the mild-eyed Ah Sins and Ah Hows were prepared for resistance. They did not bluster, neglect their daily task, or indulge in any of the petty annoyances which constitute the weapons of sulky Bridgets or frowsy Janets. On the contrary, they simply preferred their request for a rise of salary, and being refused, would turn up placidly in two or three days, hat in hand, and observe nonchalantly:—"My go now. More better you catchee 'nother boy." Out-door labourers are said to be even more intractable, and ranchmen have to pay now for what they call "unintelligent labour," more than Eastern farmers give for the very pick of harvest hands. Indeed, one journal, apparently well informed, states that in consequence of the impossibility of procuring men to pick and pack fruit for market, half the crop was lost upon some of the ranches last season, while a few grape-growers were so unfortunate that the produce of their ranches barely sufficed to pay off the Chinamen who stripped the vines. The hop-growers are still more seriously circumstanced, for while the price of hops has fallen fully one half, wages have doubled. Since the passage of the Restriction Act the number of Chinese who have left California on passports or return certificates, is stated at twelve thousand, and but a small fraction have yet returned. These twelve thousand are the very pick of the skilled workmen, and in a great majority of cases they have carried away savings sufficient to provide them with a competence for the rest of their lives in their own country. The effects of the exodus are partially mitigated by the arrival of smuggled Chinamen, *viz* British Columbia, but this source of supply is quite inadequate. We

need hardly comment on the consequences of the Act in the case of the Pacific Mail and the Oriental and Occidental Companies. The proceeds of their Chinese passenger traffic used formerly to average \$1,000,000 annually, but now scarcely half that sum is realized. The outward-bound vessels of the Companies have still their full quota of steerage passengers, as witness the *Oceanic* and the *Coptic*, which recently carried from San Francisco 800 and 1,200 Chinamen respectively, but on the return voyages lists almost blank are the rule. Altogether the troubles that were prophesied for California in the sequel of the short-sighted and unconstitutional policy of 1881, have come upon her with unexpected rapidity. It is not that Chinese labour alone grows scarce and dear. The price of all labour is correspondingly affected, for European immigrants, when they consent to work for hire, invariably demand better wages than are paid to Chinamen, as a tribute to the superiority of the Caucasian race. Never was there a more signal instance of mistaken legislation bearing witness to its own unwisdom. There is little hope, either, that any attempt to modify the Act will be made in the immediate future. The Californians were so violent in their demands for restriction that they will suffer a good deal before they consent to confess their error.

SOME statistics have recently been published which tend to show that Ulster is not so completely peopled by Protestants as has been commonly thought, and that Protestantism and prosperity do not necessarily go together in Ireland. The total population of the nine counties of the province consists of 833,566 Catholics, 379,402 Protestants and Episcopalians, and 451,629 Presbyterians. It appears, too, that the number of persons who can read and write is five per cent. greater in Leinster than in Ulster, while the per-centages for the latter province and Munster are about equal. As a test of prosperity the income-tax returns are quoted. They show that the average payment per head for Ulster is 3s. 5d., and for the other three provinces 5s. These facts are adduced with great exultation by the literary members of the National League, and the sternest censure is levelled at the heads of Lord Rossmore and his followers for venturing to disturb the peace or to interfere with the proceedings of the League. The motives of the Orangemen are also denounced as mean and sordid, their accusers claiming that their only object in creating a disturbance is to save their pockets by preventing the extension of the provisions of the Land Act to leaseholders, to which class the agricultural tenants in the north chiefly belong. These accusations of violence and mercenariness would sound better were they not formulated by men who have been committing murder, arson, and all sorts of outrages for the past three years with the object of getting their rents reduced or, better still, done away with altogether. The terms "fanatic" and "rowdy" applied to Lord Rossmore and his followers because they broke up a National meeting where treason, rebellion, and theft were openly advocated, contrast somewhat strangely with the utterances of Mr. Parnell, who told his followers, when they presented him with a cheque for thirty-eight thousand pounds at the Rotunda, that the Government of Ireland was "a system of robbery and fraud;" that emigration was "a murderous blow against the life of the nation;" the Earl Spencer "desired to give full play to

the unbridled insults and passions of the foreign garrison in Ireland;" that English rulers were "wanting in common honesty," and that it was the determination of himself and his followers that "this generation should not pass away until it had bequeathed to those who come after it the great right of national independence and prosperity." If such language as this is to pass unchallenged, a new definition of treason will be required.

THE Irish are an exceedingly sociable people, especially under the influence of a slight alcoholic impetus. When the representatives of the National League met in the Rotunda, Dublin, to "recognize" Mr. Parnell's services by lining his pockets, although there were twelve hundred of them present, they did not find the company nearly large enough for their hearts. So Mr. Dawson, Lord Mayor of Dublin, sat down and composed the following telegram for the purpose of letting the Irish-Americans have a share of the fun:—

Twelve hundred nationalists in meeting here in honor of Parnell greet America and send thanks for her sympathy. To which the other side promptly replied:—

Irish-America salutes Ireland, re-echoes her cheers for Parnell and will never cease struggling with her for liberty until it is achieved.

The members of the National League have quite a pleasant time of it, dining and wining and reëchoing each others telegraphic cheers. If Irish-America really sticks to her promise, and immediately commences a never-ceasing struggle with Ireland, there is no apparent reason why the spectacle should not be very hilarious and edifying for the rest of the world.

WE mentioned in a recent issue the case of a police constable in New York who clubbed a drunken man to death. Another, and more remarkable, episode subsequently occurred in the same city, when a half drunken policeman, having mortally wounded a citizen by putting a revolver bullet into his abdomen, then proceeded to fracture his skull because he did not respond to an invitation to set out for the station. One result of this ready recourse to batons is that the people have conceived a wholesome dread of getting in the way of the constables, who are thus enabled to keep a crowd in excellent order. On the occasion of the recent fire at the Windsor Theatre, the most interesting incidents appear to have been furnished by the police. Six large engines were playing on the burning pile, and the noise they made was so deafening that it completely overawed the crowd of women, children, and "peaceable lager-beer-saloon keepers," who had assembled to see the sight. It is stated, however, that the constables raised their clubs in the air and rushed at the people, punching the foremost of the throng in the ribs and tapping the skulls of those in the rear, while if anyone offered the slightest resistance or remonstrance he was "set upon and jammed about in a most brutal and reckless manner." But the most noteworthy instances of clubbing were those of Nunan and Lent. The former's experience is thus described by an onlooker:—"When the flames first burst from the entrance of the theater and struck the front of the adjoining hotel, the shrieks of the occupants of the rooms could be heard for blocks. The firemen rushed into the interior of the building and dragged the people down one by one. Then the smoke and flames drove the firemen off. Young Nunan then climbed to the iron fire escape which was built on the front of

the hotel and worked his way to the top of the building, looking into the rooms and doing all in his power to find any victims that might have been left by the haste of the firemen. It was a fearless and courageous thing to do. He was well rewarded. When he arrived at the street, his hands blistered and his face flushed with the heat, the first man who greeted him was a huge Irish policeman. He jammed him up against the elevated railroad post and then clubbed him cruelly, dragged him to the line and pushed him out in the crowd." The second victim, Lent, was even less deserving of the treatment he received. "It became known among the firemen, when the fire had progressed to the first floor of the hotel, that a French woman was imprisoned by the flames in the extension in the rear. Lent rushed up to her room, and found her just about to drop from the window. He seized her and tried to take her down to the first floor, but she broke away from him and went back to her room for her trunk. Lent who was resolved to save her at any cost, dragged her to the floor below again, but her trunk was more to her than life, and she insisted upon going back to her room again. She was crazy with fear. When Lent returned he threw the trunk down stairs, and had no difficulty in dragging the woman after it. It would seem to a casual observer that up to this stage of the game he had not passed a particularly enjoyable evening. The mental and physical wear and tear consequent to a desperate effort to save a woman and her trunk from a burning building were not pleasant, and the severe tussle that Lent had with the woman certainly entitled him to some respect. He got it. The instant he appeared on the sidewalk he was received by the police, and clubbed with even more brutality than the unfortunate Nunan, who had scaled the building. These are only two of the many instances of clubbing that occurred that night." We apprehend that this amusement of the New York police will soon cease to be a one-sided affair. Somebody will begin to club them back again.

NOTES.

A STORY is told of a foreign Representative in Japan whose relations with the Government of the country were occasionally of a somewhat stormy nature. Fifteen or sixteen years ago there occurred an event which seriously disturbed this official's equanimity, and while he was under the early influence of the shock, he was waited on by half-a-dozen Japanese officers, who solicited his aid towards obtaining instruction in a particular branch of military science. Their answer was an angry recommendation to learn manners first and tactics afterwards—advice which perplexed them not a little, seeing that they were entirely without knowledge of the incident which prompted this outbreak. Nor was their ignorance wonderful, seeing that the thing had happened ten miles away and that the actors were men of a different clan. Another instance of vicarious misfortune is reported of the Dutch authorities, who recently applied to the Government of Japan for permission to employ Japanese coolie labour in the West Indies. The answer they received was, "Treaty revision first and coolie labour afterwards," and this, we believe, brought the negotiations to a standstill. It is, perhaps, somewhat hard on the coolies that treaty revision, a matter of which

their ignorance must be tolerably profound, should be used as a barrier to their obtaining lucrative employment. But their case is no worse than was that of the *Samurai* who were debarred from studying the manual and platoon exercise because an Englishman riding on the Tokaido had been obliged to subscribe to Japanese sumptuary laws. At the same time we trust that the sequel of the application for coolies is not to be taken as an index of Japan's future policy. It is very comprehensible that the Government of this country, assured finally of the hopelessness of obtaining any revision of the present treaties in a more liberal sense, might make up its mind to abide, hereafter, by the strict letter of those documents, and to withhold every privilege not specially stipulated for by their provisions. This would be an intelligible policy, but highly unpleasant. We should not like to be strictly confined, once more, to the areas included within the treaty limits, and compelled to forego summer trips to Hakone, Miya-no-shita, or Yukao. The fate of the Dutch application for coolie labour, reminds us, however, that such a contingency is by no means impossible.

It is with much pain that we record the sudden death of Mr. A. H. Cole, which took place at his residence yesterday (Friday) morning. Mr. Cole had for many years filled the post of sub-editor of the *Japan Mail*, and his abilities and cheerful industry won him the respect and regard of those with whom he was associated. Since last summer his health had been slightly impaired, but not sufficiently to inspire any apprehensions, and up to Thursday evening he was able to perform his usual duties. These sad events are, unfortunately, all too common in Yokohama, but the circumstances of the present case establish a special claim upon the sympathy of the public.

WE read that the Italian Minister of Justice intends to submit, for the approval of Parliament, a modification of the press laws actually existing. It is not pretended that the Italian press has abused its privileges, as a rule. The good sense of the public has always interfered to deprive of their power journals which attempted to make mischief. But there have been cases, it appears, where writers, encouraged by their irresponsibility, did not scruple to overstep the limits of fair criticism, and where persons assailed found the remedies offered by the law slow and unsatisfactory. The intention of the proposed modification so far as we can understand, is to fix the responsibility by establishing a clearer legal relation between the newspaper and the public. To accomplish this, a responsible director is to be substituted for the manager. In this crude form, the change does not promise much, and the leading Italian journal is of opinion that the Minister of Justice is in the wrong route: what is wanted is not a new definition of responsibility, but a law whose repressive powers can be exercised with the utmost possible expedition. This language has a retrogressive ring; but Italian journals are not alone in the opinion that among all abuses none can be more despotic or baleful than the abuse which vulgar and violent men call liberty of speech. We are not without an example in Japan, where there exists an English journal whose unique aim seems to be to persuade the Japanese that Englishmen hate and despise them. With such a mischievous nuisance staring us in the face every day, it is hard to believe that liberty of

the press ought to be universal, or to be quite contented with a system which permits one of the noblest results of Western civilization to become, under certain circumstances, one of its greatest disgraces.

THE Continental journals are making things as pleasant as possible for England in connection with the disaster in the Soudan. They have now quite a respectable list of items which will stand, they say, to Egypt's credit in the day when she makes her final reckoning with the self-invited occupant of her territory. There are: first, the bombardment and ruin of Alexandria; then the expenses of the war, of the bombardment, of the occupation, and so forth; then the introduction of the cholera; then the loss of the Soudan, and destruction of the Egyptian army that went there under the command of an English staff. If the occupation lasts a little longer, these friendly critics think that there will not be much left of Egypt. What they admire most is England's wonderful *sang-froid*. Now that the tenure of the Soudan has become troublesome, she calmly says, "give it up." But then it is not she, but Egypt, that has been making large sacrifices of men and money for sixty years back to keep the Soudan; so perhaps there is no special reason to be surprised at this exhibition of robust British egoism. One would imagine that these cheery analysts might be content to let the matter rest there. But no. They mean to be provided with something charitable to say in every eventuality, so they proceed to declare, first, that if England makes no attempt to recover the Soudan, she will have deliberately caused the loss of Egyptian territory; secondly, that if she tries to recover it, her object will be to keep it for herself; thirdly, that if she withdraws her troops now, she will be disgraced; fourthly, that she will make the loss of the Soudan an excuse to keep them where they are in perpetuity; and fifthly, that there are grave reasons to think that the loss was deliberately contrived with the intention of furnishing the excuse. We fear that with all her practicality it will puzzle England to steer clear of these various pit-falls. But on the other hand, if she falls into them, the shock will not be very serious.

TIN mining must be an exceedingly profitable speculation under some circumstances. At the first annual meeting of the Selangor Company of Shanghai, the Chinaman read out, to the shareholders assembled, a few very appetizing facts from the records of the Mt. Bischoff Tin Mine, in Tasmania. It appears that the total paid up capital of the Company working the mine is £29,600, and that during 1882 the net profits were upwards of £106,000. Nine dividends, of £60,000 were declared, at intervals of three weeks, during the latter half of that year. The chairman of the Selangor Company assured his hearers that, on comparing the prospects of their venture with the leading features of the Tasmania mine, he was unable to find one point in which the advantage rested with the latter. The Selangor Company was formed in 1882 for the purpose of acquiring and working a concession of four blocks of 250 acres each, to be selected at will in the State of Selangor, Malayan Peninsula. Only one of the blocks has been definitely selected as yet. It adjoins a famous mine called the Ampang, and trial borings go to show that the same deposit runs through both. The total produc-

tion of tin throughout the world in 1882, was divided as follows:—

	TONS.
Straits	11,705
Australia	10,067
Cornwall	9,400
Banca and Billiton	8,599
Peru and other countries	500
Total	40,721

The maximum price per ton during the past ten years was £148, and the minimum £55, while the average from 1878 to 1882 was £90 to £100. On the other hand, the cost of production in Selangor is estimated at an average of £40 to £45 per ton, and the freight from Singapore to London is 10s. With regard to the Selangor district and the mining methods at present in vogue there, the chairman gave the following interesting facts:—

Tin mining has been successfully carried on by Chinese in Selangor for a great many years past, and upwards of 20,000 men are engaged in it. As, however, they possess no machinery enabling them to drain the mines they open, immediately the mines become flooded, they are obliged to abandon them; consequently they can only work in the higher grounds, where the deposits are poorer, and so a merely infinitesimal amount of tin is obtained and exported compared with what may be, and will be, exported as soon as machinery is brought into general use. The Chinese workings in Selangor, with one exception, are mere scratchings in the hill sides, while the lower valleys, where the richest deposits exist, are completely inaccessible to them. When I was in Selangor, just twelve months ago, there was only one pump worked by steam in the state, and this has enabled a valley to be developed, which is, at the present moment, the richest yet discovered in the whole of the Malay peninsula. This is the "Ampang" mine, which adjoins the "Sungei Puteh" property of this Company, a plan of which property has been sent to each shareholder. The deposit at Ampang where the work is now going on is twenty-six feet thick. In the Appendix to our report you will see that the borings have proved that there is a deposit of nineteen feet thick in Sungei Puteh. A year ago when I was in the Native States the thickest stratum then known was sixteen feet. This in a mine in Perak, and was considered so wonderful that the Resident asked me to visit the mine with him to see it, and I did so. The percentage of ore in the "Ampang" mine is equally remarkable for its richness, and we have on the table a bag containing a sample of the wash dirt which was assayed by Mr. Hampton, the Engineer of the Perak Tin Mining Co., who was passing through the State on a visit, and who, having taken the samples to Penang to assay it, wrote officially to the Resident stating that it produced 47 per cent. of tin ore. The Resident published this letter in the *Straits Times*. The deposits are found so close to the surface, varying from five feet to between forty and fifty, that the cost of the machinery required, and the cost of the working generally, is extremely small as compared with the cost of tin mining in any other part of the world. In order to give you some idea of the value of the deposits of nineteen feet thick found on Sungei Puteh, I may mention that many of the mines being worked by Chinese contain deposits of between one and four feet only in thickness, the percentage of ore being far lower than the sample from the Ampang mine.

THE Tientsin correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* says:—"Li Hung-chang continues as peaceably inclined as ever and does not budge an inch in regard to preparations, except in regard to preparations for the defence of Korea; this is his pet scheme, and he is still keeping his eye on the Loochoo Islands. Of all the men in China, Li dreads a visit from the French up here, for he knows well enough if there is war the French will not visit Kwang-si and Yunnan, but that they are likely to pay another visit to the Summer Palace, and blockade Canton." The same writer also says:—"I don't believe China will go to war with France, but she will no doubt pick a quarrel with Japan about Korea. China certainly is making preparations to defend the southern provinces, as it is believed by some officials that France will not be satisfied with Tonquin, but will take Kwang-tung, Kwang-si, and Yunnan." The same authority adds:—"that the latest Imperial Edict issued at Peking is to the following effect:—"Instead of Li Hung-chang, T'so is now appointed Governor-General of Kwang-tung, Kwangsi, and Yunnan, and Generalissimo, and with him is to be P'ang Yu-lin at Kwang-si, Wa Ta-ching at Kang-tung, Li Mi-chu at Yunnan. Governor-General Chang Shu-sheng is to go to Tonquin as Commander-in-chief of all the troops to be brought in the field against the

French and the Black Flags included. Tseng Kwo-chan is to take the place of T'so, of the Liang Kiang and Nan Ta-ching."

CONSIDERABLE anxiety is expressed in the Hongkong papers in regard to the safety of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Hwai-yuen*, that vessel having sailed from Shanghai for Hongkong on the 28th of December. The *China Mail* of the 8th instant, says:—"No news of the whereabouts of the *Hwai-yuen* had been received at the office of the China Merchants' Company here up to a late hour this afternoon. There were \$36,000, in treasure, on board the vessel. It has been reported that a large number of soldiers were also taken on board at Shanghai, and the conjecture has been circulating that possibly these "braves," having no stomach for fighting the French, and preferring cash down to hopes of payment, had taken possession of the vessel and run her into some convenient bay. This conjecture is, however, knocked on the head by the fact that there were no soldiers on board. Another conjecture is that another affair, something after the manner of the *Spark* tragedy, has been enacted, the supposition being that a number of desperadoes, knowing that the *Hwai-yuen* was to carry down treasure, took passage in her, and have made themselves masters of the vessel *en voyage*. It is quite certain that a serious mishap of some kind has occurred to the vessel. She left Shanghai ten or eleven days ago, and has not apparently since been seen from a single vessel, although steamers are always voyaging between here and the Model Settlement.

THE *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* of the 16th instant publishes a telegram from Nagoya, stating that early on the morning of the previous day a fire broke out in the Theatre at Togiya-machi, in Aichi Ken, and spreading with great rapidity, destroyed over four hundred houses, fourteen persons receiving various injuries in attempting to extinguish the flames. On the same morning, at half-past twelve o'clock, another fire occurred in the buildings formerly used for the Industrial Exhibition, at Nurimono-cho, Kanda, Tokiyo, and the conflagration was not extinguished until eighteen houses had been destroyed. The cause of the fire is said to have been through a child dropping a piece of live charcoal. In this case three persons were burnt to death.

THE *Fiji Shimpō* states that the Japanese Naval Department desires to purchase the Kobe Manufacturing and Dockyard Establishments of the late Mr. E. C. Kirby; and that Mr. Matsuda, Superintendent of the Government Ironworks at Tokiyo, is instructed to inspect and report upon the condition of the Kobe factories with a view to negotiations with the liquidators of Mr. Kirby's estate.

THE butter that is exported from California and eaten in perfect confidence on bread and toast, is seldom, if ever, butter. A protest against the manufacture of the oleomargarine that is sent out from the grease factories has been publicly made by the *bond fide* dairymen of San Francisco, who, have taken urgent steps to stop the sale of oleomargarine for butter or for anything but what it is. To this end they have formed a permanent organization, which is likely to be productive of much good in stopping the sale of a spurious and deleterious compound.

THE Rev. G. A. Shaw, in an essay entitled "The Future Prospects of Madagascar," says that when the French ultimatum of last June was received by the Malagasy Government, a great "Kabary," or assembly of the people, was called to determine the answer that should be sent. The Prime Minister, after recounting the events that had occurred on the north-west coast, said:—"The French claim a third of Madagascar, and demand two hundred thousand dollars; * * * and in the event of our not acceding to their demands, or of the answer not arriving in time, or should the Governor of Tamatave make any military preparations, then they will bombard and destroy all the ports on the east coast. Now shall we yield to their demands, or what do you think we should do?" To this query, Mr. Shaw tells us, the people answered, "with a loud shout, saying, 'God forbid that we should do that.' They stood up one after another, and made speeches, tribe by tribe protesting against any cession of territory to the French, though but the size of a grain of rice. In many different speeches they showed that they did not in the least shrink from death in defence of their country; they begged for guns and spears, and that every able-bodied man should be drilled so that one and all might fight in defence of their fatherland." Probably there never was a popular assembly in any part of the universe that would not have returned a similar answer to a similar question, and we should not have been disposed to expect much from the Malagasy merely because their voices were loud in debate. The reverend gentleman from whom we quote, assures his readers, however, that "the Malagasy are a most determined people—their determination approximating to obstinacy—and when they say, 'God forbid that we should give up land even of the size of a grain of rice,' it means that the French will never obtain undisturbed possession of any part of the mainland till the Hovas are exterminated." How completely false this estimate was, our recent telegraphic news demonstrates. The Hovas have consented to surrender the northern part of the island to France, whose claim to this cession rests chiefly on the fact that it was stipulated in a treaty which she formerly concluded with tribes that had revolted from the Hova rule. The cession of Ulster and Munster by the Fenians to an enemy of Great Britain would constitute a parallel claim. Mr. Shaw's description of Madagascar's material prospects possesses special interest in the context of a French occupation that will sooner or later extend to the whole island. He writes as follows:—

From a foreigner's point of view, Madagascar presents an alluring future. The resources of the country, which has long been suspected of being rich, have, nevertheless, never been developed. No industry has been fairly tried except sugar-making, which succeeded so well in the hands of its first promoters that numbers have followed in their wake, seeing in the enormous productive powers of the soil and climate a sure and ready road to fortune. This industry employs plant, &c., to the value of about one million dollars around Tamatave alone, and of this, British interests are valued at 80 per cent., while one English firm estimates its actual loss, from the impossibility of cutting this year's canes, at between eight and ten thousand pounds. Many other valuable products might, it is believed, be raised from the soil and become articles of great commercial value, such as coffee, vanilla, cloves, cinnamon, and tea, while the low-lying swampy tracts might be made a mine of wealth to the rice grower.

The mineral wealth of the country remains to the present day an unknown quantity; the extreme jealousy of all outside influence having induced the Government to make it a criminal offence for any native to search for metals, and a cause for expulsion from the country for any foreigner to prospect for gold, silver, &c., or to sink any mine. There is, nevertheless, sufficient evidence to show that the mineral wealth of the country is great.

The means of communication are at present bad; but roads would not be difficult of construction, and railways might be formed with comparatively small expense. In fact, more

than one firm in London have made the offer to build a railway from the coast to the capital, the only obstacle to the enterprise being the want of security for the land on the one hand, and the still imperfectly settled confidence in the foreigners on the part of the people. Now that these troubles have come upon the Malagasy, they are exultant that their opposition to foreigners stood sufficiently in the way of their making roads and railways; because, as they readily see, these would only have been a source of weakness in the present struggle; while the want of any easy mode of moving bodies of men accoutred as European soldiers are constitutes their greatest strength. They have cut off supplies from the French troops, who well know the difficulty and danger of penetrating into the country. But when the Government shall feel itself strong enough, within, and by alliance with other nations, to cope with immigrants, there will be no difficulty either regarding the land question or the improvement of internal communication. The Government are not opposed to progress, and the life of the late Queen, just published in Madagascar, shows how much she was willing to do systematically from her private purse for the elevation of her subjects, and for the advancement of the country. The present Queen in a public "Kabary" has intimated her intention to follow the policy of her "mother"; and the Prime Minister, several years ago, in answer to a request from some traders in Tamatave, said that neither he nor the Queen would offer any opposition to the formation of canals between the lagoons near the coast. This could easily be done with but a small amount of capital, thus connecting ports and towns near the coast, which are at present with the greatest difficulty approached from the sea. The rivers are broad and fairly deep inland, and can be made a fine means of inter-communication, although they are of no use as harbours, being blocked with sand-bars at their mouths.

Another essential item in the consideration of the probable advancement of a country from a commercial point of view, and from the standpoint of the foreigner, is the labour question. In this the capitalist meets with no difficulty in Madagascar. There is plenty of good and reliable labour for those who treat the native workmen in a fair and honest fashion; who pay their wages when due, and do not try civilized dodges for cheating the labourers of their fairly-earned wages. It is true they come to Tamatave from a distance inland and farther south, but the foreigner has himself to thank for this inconvenience; the unlimited introduction of Mauritius and Bourbon rum having completely demoralized the natives in the vicinity of the ports, near which the principal demand for labour exists. If, as was earnestly desired by the native Government, a restrictive duty were placed upon this vile importation, and upon its manufacture in the sugar mills of the country, there is no reason in the world why the Bet-simisaraka should not become as good workmen as the Taimoro and Tanala. But so long as 10,000 barrels of this crude spirit are introduced for consumption in one year, among a people numbering perhaps half a million, it is unreasonable to hope that the labour market will be supplied by them. But as the Government sees this, and recognizing its evil effects upon the people, is desirous of restricting the traffic, surely European nations cannot much longer refrain from allowing the Queen to place a much higher duty on that which is killing off her subjects by thousands.

Turning to the religious and moral progress of the people during the past, there is as great hope for the future in this direction as in that of purely commercial, social, and political elevation. Although some Roman Catholics in the seventeenth century made the first endeavour to introduce Christianity, it was utterly futile; no lasting effect was made on the people, and the fruits of their zeal perished with them. It was not till 1821 that Christianity was really effectively introduced among the Hovas, and the history of its development has been one of the greatest marvels in the history of the Christian Church. A period of less than twenty years of frequently interrupted work on the part of a handful of British missionaries was succeeded by one of the fiercest persecutions for Christ's sake that the world has of late years seen. But the honesty of the people's convictions was shown in the fact that notwithstanding the royal mandate forbidding the reading of the Bible and meetings for prayer—in spite of the number of nobles, of women and of children even, who suffered death for conscience-sake—when the country after nearly thirty years was again opened to the missionaries, the number of Christians had, instead of diminishing, increased nearly thirty-fold. From that time, 1862, to the present day, steady, rapid progress has been made, till now the churches number over 1,200, the native adherents 300,000, and the scholars in the schools over 100,000. In 1862 the only literature possessed by the people was the Bible and one or two tracts; in 1880 it was reported that "the publications of various kinds issued from the Mission Press since 1870 had not been less than 1,500,000." From the same authority we learn that during nine and a-half years the total issue of Bibles, Testaments, and portions of Scripture amounted to 1,32,902, while the oldest periodical, *Good Words*, has a monthly circulation of 2,700. English is being taught and eagerly acquired by the people, who will thus find access to the stores of English literature with its ennobling influences to the thoughtful mind. These facts and figures tell their own tale of substantial progress and prospective advancement. Let us hope that whatever may be the outcome of the present difficulty there will be a glorious future for the "Great African Island."

THE danger to Australia of French criminals finding their way to those colonies, in the event of the proposed transportation of *récidivistes* on a large scale to New Caledonia being carried out, has according to the *Melbourne Argus*, just been illustrated by a case at Ballarat. Extensive robberies had been taking place in that city, and for some weeks the police were utterly unable to detect the offender. Their efforts were at last, however, crowned with success by

* "Ten Years' Review of Mission Work in Madagascar." Antananarivo, 1880.

the capture of a man whom they have every reason to believe is the perpetrator of the robberies. The man when arrested stated that his name was "Paul Jones," and declined to give any further account of himself. He has, however, since admitted that his name is not "Jones," but "Louis Paul," and that he is a French Communist who arrived in Victoria some months ago from Nouméa. The presence of such a person as Paul in the colony is no doubt inconvenient; but it seems rather hard to stigmatize him as a robber because he appropriated property not belonging to him. He merely acts in accordance with his political principles. We might with equal justice apply the term "thieves" in this country to those who advocate the spoliation of landowners.—*World*.

WITH a fresh batch by every mail (says *The World*) American athletic records are becoming somewhat of a drug. The most recent additions to the list are, however, remarkable enough to be worthy of all notice. The amateur record for walking one mile was held by an American, E. E. Merrill. On the 27th ult. another American, A. P. Murray, walked a mile at Williamsburgh in the wonderful time of 6 min. 29½ secs., and now holds the record. On the 6th instant he supplemented this feat by walking three miles in 21 min. 9½ secs., which supersedes the previous best, 21 min. 28 secs., of H. Webster, England. Murray walks with scrupulous fairness, and has made his records in the presence of able judges of walking.

THE *Saigon Independent* of the 18th ultimo says:—We yesterday had communicated to us a private telegram according to which Admiral Lespes, who was to have taken command of the fleet in China waters, and who left France on board *Galissonnière*, received an order at Port Said to await the formation of a new division hastily composed of a part of the vessels of the evolution squadron and intended for the reinforcement of the Indo-China and China Sea divisions. Vice-Admiral Baron Duperré will be appointed to the command-in-chief of the French naval forces in the Far East.

WHEN M. Tricou commenced his career of muddle, menace, and mystery in China, we alluded, necessarily in guarded terms, to a somewhat shady diplomatic manoeuvre, which, according to current report, he had given himself much unsuccessful trouble to accomplish during his residence in Tokiyo. This was nothing more or less than an attempt to persuade Japan that the Tonquin imbroglio offered an unique opportunity for her to wipe off old scores with China, and to dispose finally of that possible bone of future contention, the Riukiu question. There is more than one method of winning a country over to an alliance such as that contemplated by this manoeuvre. There is the straightforward plan of laying the pros and cons of the business before the Government, and plainly acknowledging a desire to obtain its co-operation; and there is the more devious and less dignified device of endeavouring to excite a warlike spirit in one quarter and another, with the object of carrying the decision ultimately beyond official control. Those who have watched M. Tricou's career in the East, and who have observed to what length he suffers himself to be carried by zeal for his country's interests, will not have much difficulty in believing that

the latter scheme presented no more deterrent features to his moral vision than the former. Indeed, he is accredited with having employed his belligerent eloquence so assiduously in sundry quarters, and so persistently laboured to depict China's action in the matter of Riukiu as an insult which Japan's national honour was concerned in wiping out, that the good offices of one of his colleagues had finally to be solicited to persuade him to desist. As might have been expected, however, the mischief did not stop there. It was nearly as important to augment China's embarrassment by convincing her that, in the day of battle, she would have to reckon Japan among her active enemies, as to educate a fighting mood in Japan. We cannot, in justice to M. Tricou's abilities, suppose that he neglected the former step, or ask our readers to believe that his contrivances counted for nothing in the rumours which reached us, from time to time, of China's apprehensions as to Japan's possible attitude in the event of war between France and the Middle Kingdom. From the moment that France's restless craving after a colonial empire impelled her towards the delta of the Red River and Yunnan, the most sanguine observer did not fail to foresee that whichever way her enterprises eventuated, some unpleasant contingencies were inevitable. But among these we never reckoned a sensible deepening of China's feeling of umbrage against Japan. It would almost seem as though the fates had willed that, despite this country's really earnest desire to be on terms of the closest friendship with her neighbour, something should perpetually crop up to widen the breach between them. M. Tricou is not a Colossus, either morally or physically, but his powers of doing mischief were augmented by his position, and he used them with remarkable energy. We may be wrong, but we cannot help thinking that the mail-clad Japanese troops placed by the Chinese vernacular press in the van of the French forces at the assault of Sontai, were creations of M. Tricou's imagination. They are, at any rate, the outcome of the policy he pursued here. The *North China Herald*, speaking of these mythical warriors, says:—"Our readers are of course aware that some months ago the French Government made offers of alliance to Japan, which were promptly declined by the advisers of the Mikado. Chinese suspicion, however, has not been allayed, and now we hear of secret despatches and what-not, having passed between certain officials unnamed, the gist of which is that, on the requisition of M. Tricou, acting under the orders of his Government, the Japanese Government has actually furnished France with two thousand brazen-armoured troops to assist the French in fighting China in Annam. Details are not wanting of this singular transaction. A thousand and some odd hundreds of these mail-clad warriors have already arrived at Hanoi, and been used by the French General as the advance-guard against the Black Flags. But they gained little by their disloyalty to China, for the Black Flags, by the exercise of their well-known strategy, surrounded the Japanese mercenaries and almost annihilated them. Some escaped; but these were promptly pursued, surrounded, and captured. It is only due to the more intelligent of our Chinese friends to say that they do not give full credence to these wild reports, explaining them as having arisen from the facts of there being a few Japanese officers in the French army. But multitudes do actually believe the entire rigma-

role; *credo quia impossibile* is a motto acted upon in China quite as much as in some of our European countries." Our Shanghai contemporary cannot, apparently, offer us any more comforting assurance than that intelligent Chinese do not give "full credence" to these ridiculous rumours. M. Tricou may, therefore, congratulate himself on having obtained a certain measure of success. He has helped to sow seeds of discord between China and Japan, and we wish him joy of the achievement. He will long be remembered in the East as a diplomat who accomplished a vast deal of harm by the sheer force of shallow intrigue and unlimited bluster.

MESSRS. MEIKLEJOHN & Co. have published a *Pocket Directory of Japan*, and a map combined with a directory, of Yokohama. The former is an exceedingly handy little volume. The first thirty-two pages contain a calendar and a quantity of useful information; after which we have alphabetical lists of the foreign residents at the various treaty ports; a list of the diplomatic, consular, and other public bodies, and finally a diary. Nothing in the shape of a directory has yet appeared here which so well combines the qualities of compactness and perspicuity. We could have wished, indeed, that instead of giving us eight independent lists, one for each of the settlements and for the interior, the compilers had thrown the whole into one simple alphabetical schedule. But opinions will probably differ upon this point, and doubtless the former method presents facilities which, under certain circumstances, may be very desirable. The miscellaneous information which precedes the directory proper is given in a concise and accessible form. It is unencumbered by superfluous details, and may be said to embody all the facts likely to be required by foreigners in Japan. The map of Yokohama is a handsome sheet, neatly executed, and showing, besides a plan of the Settlement and Bluff, a clearly printed list of the foreign residents, &c., of Yokohama and Tokiyo. Not the smallest recommendation of these publications is their cheapness, the *Pocket Directory* costing only a dollar and a half, and the map one dollar. We feel very grateful to Messrs. Meiklejohn for having saved our time and money by these easily consulted and cheap compilations.

TIME will doubtless enable Europe to make up its mind as to the true character of the Marquis Ts'eng. At present opinions differ. Some writers call the Chinese Ambassador a man of singular shrewdness and tact; while others sneer at his diplomacy, and speak of him as a grotesque *parvenu*, who has dubbed himself Marquis with a light heart, and whose title to be listened to by Western statesmen is as unreal as his patent of nobility. It is decidedly a false move to attack the colour of the Marquis' blood, but the journalists who adopt this method of criticism evidently think that a Chinaman is fair game for every species of assault. The most irreverent among them are obliged to confess, however, that the Marquis has at least struck out a new line of diplomacy. The stereotyped idea of a diplomat is a man impassible, silent, thinking first of concealing his own thoughts and doings, and next of probing his neighbour's. But the Marquis Ts'eng has given such a rude shock to the sanctity of this legendary image, that among other polite similes his admirers compare him to a novel variety of insect which drags about, suspended from its tail, a cluster of reporters.

Of course the origin of this badinage is the Ambassador's so-called indiscretion in supplying to the Parisian journals copies of his correspondence with the Foreign Office. M. Ferry, it will be remembered, had laid before the Chambers extracts from the same correspondence, and these having been published by the press in due course, were found, on examination, to convey what the Marquis thought an unjust impression of the attitude taken by his Government. He therefore adopted the simple, but highly reprehensible, device of sending the context to be published in the same journals, so that the public might have an opportunity of passing judgment on the whole. Such a breach of official etiquette needs no comment. The proper plan for the Marquis to pursue would have been to preserve a dignified silence *vis-à-vis* the European public, and to have bequeathed to his own Government the duty of vindicating his reputation whenever, in years to come, a favourable opportunity might present itself. There would have been, to be sure, some uncertainty about this method. Neither the Marquis nor the T'sung-li Yamén could exactly foresee the day when it may be in China's power to place a French Ambassador at Peking in a similar predicament by contriving that one-sided selections of his correspondence be published in the vernacular press. So much the worse, however, for the Marquis. A rigid adherence to the rules of diplomatic reserve is far more important than the correction of a public misapprehension calculated to disturb the relations of two great nations.

DR. A. R. PLATT, the United States Consular representative at Chefoo, who has lived in China for eighteen years, paid a visit the other day to New York, and underwent the usual process of interviewing. Some of his remarks are interesting. Asked who is responsible for the present unfortunate state of affairs between France and China, he replied:—

"Whoever dictates the French foreign policy which is carried out by Minister Tricou in Peking. Minister Bourée was inclined to be pacific, but when he was withdrawn there was an instant change in the situation. Tricou is an absurd diplomat and a bully. He is hated and despised by all for his domineering conduct and mere bombast. When he paid his first ceremonial visit to Li Hung Chang he went through the streets surrounded by French gendarmes with drawn swords, and these guards were around his chair while he was actually talking to the Viceroy. Nothing could be more absurd, for if Li Hung Chang merely raised his finger it would be answered by thousands of soldiers. The interview was full of irritating remarks, and Tricou managed to arouse the anger of the Viceroy to a dangerous extent by his disagreeable behavior. Nearly every foreigner in China has turned against France, and sympathizes with the Mongolians, who are forced into their present position."

"Do the military leaders of China favor the war?"
"Of course they do, for they are of the same ilk as Prince Kung. The two men who, besides Li Hung Chang, will take the most prominent part in the approaching conflict, are Pang Yu Ling and Tso Tsung Tang. Pang is known as admiral of the Yang Tse Kiang, and not only has the power of a viceroy, but his position is so powerful that he has frequently denounced viceroys. He is frightfully anti-foreign, and also has a morbid love for ferreting out secret revolutionary societies. He often goes around disguised as a poor coolie and talks with the populace in order to find out plots against the Empire or himself. He will sit down with a coolie suspected of disloyalty and say, 'What do you think of Pang Yu Ling?' 'He's an old rascal,' the unfortunate man is likely to reply, whereupon he is seized by soldiers and cast into prison or beheaded. Pang is the commanding military officer of the Empire and is thoroughly honest. He will protect foreigners while the laws allow them to live in China, but he openly avows his hatred for them."

"Next to Pang is Tso Tsung Tang, the general who suppressed the last rebellion and destroyed the forces of Yacoub Beg and his two sons. He is Viceroy of Nankin. Tso is a thorough soldier and sprang from the ranks, but he is a terrible hater of foreigners, and will not read the signs of the times. Flushed with his victories in war and swelled up with the importance of the army he lately led into Li to meet the Russian forces then in Kuldja, Tso's vanity leads him to think that China can overwhelm the rest of creation. These are the men against whom Li Hung Chang is fighting for his supremacy, and the difference between them can be imagined when I tell you Li employs a man at Tientsin to do nothing but translate articles about China published in the Herald and other great newspapers, so that he knows just what is said about every move of his foreign policy. He is accurately informed even as to the kind of

newspapers he reads from. The recent letter of Admiral Shufeldt reflecting on the Empress caused a tremendous sensation at Peking, and Li Hung Chang was furious. He sent for Minister John Russell Young and remonstrated about it in a very stormy manner. I was present at the interview, and I never saw a man more furious than Li was. He shook like a leaf in his passion. This was the only unpleasant event of the present Minister's official career in China. Mr. Young is a great favorite with the Chinese government, and he has more influence with Li than any other foreign representative. The other Ministers are wild with jealousy at the preference which Li is beginning to show for America. Mr. Young is doyen of the diplomatic corps by right of seniority. When Minister Young met Li Hung Chang on his arrival as Minister, the Viceroy let his steamer wait a full hour beyond the appointed time.

THE Japanese bark *Tsurunoya Maru*, Captain Meyer, which left Shinagawa for Nagasaki in ballast, arrived at the anchorage on Monday last. Captain Meyer reports that on Wednesday last, off Omaisaki, during a strong W.N.W. gale, with a high cross sea running, the vessel sprung a leak, which gained with such rapidity as to necessitate her return to port. Was in company with a full-rigged ship bound up and a laden bark, painted black, beating down. The *Tsurunoya Maru* was formerly the American bark *B. Aymar*, and is partly owned by Messrs. Lake & Co., of Nagasaki.

THE *Hongkong Telegraph* emphatically denies the statement published by the correspondent of the *Daily Press*, that after the capture of Sontai, the town was given over to the troops to rapine and pillage. The *Telegraph* characterizes this as "an atrocious accusation," and we fully endorse the epithet if the *Daily Press'* correspondent did really venture to formulate such an assertion without the most convincing proof of its veracity. The *Telegraph*, after stating that the correspondent "was not within a hundred miles of the scene of action and had no possible means of obtaining trustworthy information," prints, in confirmation of its corrections, a letter from "a French officer who took part in the operations against Sontai." This letter we reproduce below. Our readers will observe, however, that it contains nothing which can be construed as a direct denial of the charge preferred by the correspondent of the *Daily Press*, though in other important respects its information is quite at variance with that supplied to the latter journal. The *Hongkong Telegraph* will be doing a public service if it can furnish some unimpeachable testimony as to the untruth of the barbarous act attributed by the *Daily Press'* correspondent to Admiral Courbet:—

HANOI, 27th December, 1883.

As you must have already heard, Sontai was captured by the French troops, after three days desperate fighting, on the evening of the 16th instant. Particulars of the attack have, no doubt, been sent to you by your special correspondent here, but I think I am perhaps in a position to give you a few details which are not likely to have been published.

Sontai was strongly fortified for an Eastern city, being surrounded by a wall some 16 miles in circumference, and besides being defended by several outlying forts, was protected by almost impassable swamps on every side. Admiral Courbet's plan of action was to make a false attack on the southern defences, so as to draw the Black Flags to that point, and then to make a dash on Phou-sá, a strong entrenchment defending the pathway leading to the eastern gate. This plan was carried out, and proved quite successful, the Turcos and Algerian legion carrying it, after some fierce hand-to-hand fighting. But even after capturing Phou-sá, the French were not allowed to remain in possession in peace, as a strong body of Black Flags issued from the southern gate, and, advancing through the swampy ground, made a desperate assault on the captured position, and were only beaten back after a stubborn resistance.

The Admiral's next movement was to send a strong detachment to take possession of a small hill overlooking Sontai from the north, and this being accomplished successfully, earthworks were quickly raised, and everything was in readiness for the grand assault. Early on the morning of the 16th the gunboats ranged in position, and commenced to shell the city, the field artillery, which was very well handled, doing a fair share of the work. For eleven hours the cannonade continued almost without cessation, and at 5 o'clock in the evening the troops advanced under cover of the guns against the northern gate. An entrance was soon effected, and the citadel was attacked. The citadel of Sontai is a square block, defended at its four corners by fortresses, which were mounted with some heavy guns. After some severe fighting, three of these forts were taken by the French, the Black Flags retreating into the fort at

the south-west corner. When hostilities ceased for the night, the Black Flags were still in possession, but when the French advanced at daylight, it was found that the enemy had abandoned the position and retired during the night. Without any further opposition, the city was entirely at the mercy of Admiral Courbet.

The casualties on either side, considering the hard fighting that took place, are exceedingly light. The French losses amounted to about 400, killed and wounded, including a large proportion of officers, whilst the Black Flags are reported to have lost not fewer than 600 men. On the French side there were from four to five thousand men engaged, exclusive of the gunboats, the total force of the Black Flags, according to a reliable estimate, not exceeding 1,800 men. There were no Chinese regular soldiers in Sontai, and the only resistance offered to the French was by Li Ang Fuk and his hardy Black Flags. The Turcos and foreign legion, who bore the brunt of the fighting, say the Black Flags fought like devils.

The bombardment by the gunboats almost demolished the town, and killed a vast number of Annamites and Chinese, traders, &c., who had sought shelter within the city. The victors captured about 200 small ponies, 250,000 francs, 300,000 cartridges, a number of Remington rifles—this being the arm carried by the Black Flags—5 Krupp guns, and a quantity of bronze and other old-fashioned ordnance. There was a report current that the chief of the Black Flags, Li Ang Fuk, had been killed in the assault, but this has since been contradicted, and the French authorities have no reliable information on the subject.

While the French were attacking Sontai, a body of troops—supposed to be Chinese regulars—marched out from Bac-ninh and opened fire on the entrenchments at Hanoi with some light field guns. However, the French garrison, 500 strong, easily held their ground, the enemy eventually retiring in good order.

After capturing Sontai, Admiral Courbet garrisoned the town with the half of the expeditionary force, and returned to Hanoi with the other half, where he now is, engaged in planning an advance on Bac-ninh. It is reported here that the attack on Bac-ninh will be made about the 10th January, but in some quarters it is asserted that nothing further will be attempted until additional reinforcements arrive from France. Personally, I think the Admiral will risk an attack, if he can see a fair prospect of success, before the arrival of General Millot, who is now on his way to assume the command of the French army in Tonquin.

THE special correspondent of the London *Daily News* telegraphs from Tokiyo, under date November the 28th:—

I have had a long interview with the Japanese Foreign Minister.

The Minister spoke freely on the subject of the opening up of the interior of Japan to foreign trade. He represents his Government as being most anxious for it, stipulating only that foreigners availing themselves of the privilege should be under the jurisdiction of the Japanese Courts. This would involve a revision of the treaties and the abolition of foreign legal jurisdiction in the open ports.

It is well that the people of England should understand the truth about the state of affairs in Japan, and for this reason such a telegram as the above is not unlikely to do some good. It may surprise the public to learn that the anxiety for unrestricted trade and intercourse is now on Japan's side, and that the tendency to perpetuate the present condition of semi-isolation is wholly on the foreign side. There is the plain fact, however. Dress it up in whatever euphuisms we please, its harsh outlines still stand forth unmistakably humiliating. Formerly it was the Japanese who wished to perpetuate the seclusion recommended by tradition and an unfortunate experience; now it is the foreigner who wishes to exclude competition from the commerce he has undertaken to develop, and who, to conserve his monopoly, is content that Japan shall never be admitted to any real intimacy with Western nations. We are aware that this statement of the case will be indignantly denied by many whose position it does not truly describe. There are persons, not a few, let us hope, who earnestly desire to see the work completed which Western envoys and fleets came here twenty-seven years ago to commence, but who, nevertheless, feel an honest apprehension that the time is not yet ripe, and that this country is scarcely fit to assume all the responsibilities of perfectly free intercourse. Such scruples deserve respect, though they might be justly met by pointing to the very scant consideration Japan's similarly inspired reluctance formerly received at foreign hands. But if this mood alone had to be dealt with, some *modus agendi* could soon be discovered, some temporary half-way house between

the present wretched dead-lock and the happier condition which might so easily be brought about. The other mood, the disposition to keep things as they are lest some vested interests should suffer by change, deserves to be differently treated. None of us will be disposed to admit that the interests of foreign countries and of Japan alike, as represented by their common commerce, ought to be subserved to the interests of a few merchants, whose property might be deteriorated, or their particular lines of trade interrupted, were the country thrown open.

Yet it is impossible to doubt that this feeling lies at the root of much of the uncompromising opposition which everything resembling equal intercourse with Japan encounters among the foreign communities at the open ports. Some time ago, one of the vernacular journals expressed surprise that the people of Yokohama should be so blind to their own benefit as to oppose the opening of the country, with all the increased opportunities, industrial and commercial, such a measure must bring. The writer had evidently given his subject little serious thought. He did not see that, in commerce, whatever tends to subvert existing conditions must be inconvenient to somebody. Japan's foreign trade is a paltry business, compared with what it might be, and the circumstances under which it is conducted in Yokohama are as fatal to its healthy development as they are irksome to men of enterprise and capital. But, for all that, there have grown up under those circumstances a number of traders whose prosperity depends on keeping things in their present groove. To these men the opening of the country signifies the necessity of branching out in new directions; the certainty of seeing the domain they have hitherto monopolized invaded by capital and enterprise from without; the chance of finding the value of their local investments depreciate, and, in some few cases, the assurance that the illicit advantages which they now derive from an abuse of privilege will disappear with the exclusiveness of the privilege. This is the class which really stands in the path of progress and development. A great deal has been written and said about Japanese guilds and monopolists that environ the settlements and effectually check the growth of trade. But the influence of these guilds and monopolists does not deserve to be mentioned in the same breath with the influence of the foreign conservatives. For while the strength of the former depends entirely upon the permanence of the partial intercourse which alone is now possible, the efforts of the latter tend solely to perpetuate the incompleteness of that intercourse. In other words, the Japanese guilds, monopolists, and *saitori*, so bitterly inveighed against, are the inevitable outcome of conditions which a selfish and short-sighted section of the foreign community devotes all its energies to perpetuate. This is how the skeleton telegram of the *Daily News* reads in its expanded form.

DURING the year 1883 the number of actions brought by foreigners in Japanese courts and published in the columns of the local press, was eleven in all. Of these eleven, eight were decided in favour of the foreign plaintiffs, and three in favour of the Japanese defendants. The cases which went against the foreigners do not appear to have presented any perplexing features. Two were applications for an order to compel the defendant to take delivery of goods imported

by his directions, but in both instances conclusive expert testimony was offered that the goods did not agree with the original sample. The third case was a claim for compensation on account of damage incurred by a parcel of fans on ship-board. The plaintiff alleged that the damage resulted from defective drying and was therefore a fault of manufacture; but the defendant proved that the method of packing was in itself sufficient to have produced the injury. In the hearing of these cases eight different Japanese judges were engaged, one in each case; the judgments were delivered without any unnecessary delay, and the reasons were enunciated succinctly and clearly. Facts of this sort are worthy of record, as showing how partial and exaggerated is the notion, so frequently dinned into our ears in Yokohama, that justice is not accessible in Japanese Courts, and that there would be no security for life and property were foreigners obliged to submit to native jurisdiction. It will not be pretended, we presume, that the eight judges who, in more than two-thirds of the cases brought before them during 1883, delivered judgment in favour of foreigners and against their own nationals, were parties to a scheme for creating a falsely favorable impression of Japanese impartiality and fairness. Some critics, indeed, not shrinking from even this wild contention, avow that the Japanese Government and the Japanese Judiciary are parties to a plot which has for its object to throw dust into the eyes of foreign Governments, so as to persuade them to deliver over their nationals to a power which thirsts to make life in Japan miserable for all aliens. But these suspicions, though sufficiently becoming to lunatics or barbarians, scarcely claim consideration at the hands of sane or civilized men. If the creations of vulgar prejudice are to be preferred to the evidence of facts, it is hopeless to expect that our relations with this country can ever be placed on a footing of mutual liberality and confidence. There is, doubtless, an immense margin for improvement in the practice of Japanese civil law. There is, above all, the want of efficient legislation in matters of bankruptcy; a want which makes itself very keenly felt by foreign merchants. But these are points entirely apart from the spirit in which the law is administered. The latter is what the conservative section of the foreign community declares its inability to trust, and in the face of the evidence furnished by the records of 1883, we cannot but think that, if more attention were paid to facts and less to fancies, such a discreditable exhibition of race prejudice would soon be esteemed at its proper value.

BEFORE the Fisheries Act came into operation in 1865 there were many rivers in the West of Ireland where the continued presence of salmon seemed almost marvellous, having regard to the perils by which they were surrounded at every stage of their career. When, however, bag-nets, stake-nets, and other varieties of murderous engines, were abolished, and when the fish no longer found their passage up-stream completely barred, but were able, by judicious steering, to discover a narrow entrance which, in token of the care bestowed even on her finny subjects by Her Gracious Majesty, was designated "the Queen's Gap," a marked increase was soon observed in the stock of these well poached rivers, and it was generally concluded that all danger of salmon ceasing to be an article of

food was at an end. But there is another and more deadly obstacle to the growth of riverine population, and that is sewage. "It is well-known," writes the Hon. W. Mainwaring, in a paper contributed to the literature of the Fisheries Exhibition, "that the natural salmon stock of five of our largest rivers is practically exterminated, and that the fish present themselves annually at their unsavoury mouths, but to be baffled by causes chief among which is that of pollution; in other cases, less markedly offensive, the fish are known to be slowly but certainly receding." *Nature*, commenting on this paper, justly observes that "all the artificial breeding in the world cannot be of any avail in waters thus becoming more deadly, and to the chemist the utilization of waste offers a good field for work." Curiously enough, the same number of *Nature* contains a brief description by Mr. W. R. Browne of a recently suggested device for purifying sewage by an application of the old principle of the siphon. "Into a tank containing the sewage dips a siphon pipe some thirty feet high, of which the shorter leg is many times larger than the longer. When this is started, the water rises slowly and steadily in the shorter column, and before it reaches the top has left behind it all, or almost all, of the solid particles which it previously held in suspension. These fall slowly back through the column and collect at the bottom of the tank, to be cleared out when needful. The effluent water is not, of course, chemically pure, but sufficiently so to be turned into any ordinary stream."

THE new system of superannuation allowances for the Japanese Civil Service presents one feature which appears entirely superfluous. What is the use of a Pension Bureau? If Great Britain, with her immense Civil Service and its numerous ramifications, finds no necessity for such an office, why should Japan need it? In England the records kept in the various departments amply suffice to determine the ordinary allowances and gratuities, as well as those for special merit, and the deductions for bad conduct. We fail to discover any reasons why a similar system should not succeed in Japan. A Pension Bureau can do nothing that is not properly possible to a department. The officers of the Bureau can not conduct special enquiries into the circumstances of the cases forwarded for consideration. They will be compelled to accept, without cavil, the report of the department to which the claimant belongs, so that in the end their duties will be reduced to writing up purposeless records. We fear that in this matter Japan has thoughtlessly imitated the United States, forgetting that America inherits from her civil war a pension list too bulky to be managed by the departments in their ordinary routine, even if the labour could be distributed on any reasonable principle. It is a pity that a measure so excellent as the institution of superannuation allowances should have been made a pretext for adding another useless excrescence to a bureaucracy already inconveniently bulky.

It would appear, from the news brought by the American mail, that France's ideas with regard to China are daily becoming more intolerant. Under date December 12th, we are informed that M. Ferry had telegraphed to Admiral Courbet desiring him to resume operations with the utmost vigour, and further to let the Chinese authorities know that the French Chambers had given the Cabinet *carte blanche* to proceed as it

thought best in Tonquin. The same telegram says that the Admiral was directed to propose a renewal of negotiations, and that in the event of a refusal on the Chinese side, he was to proceed at once to the attack of Sontai and Bac-ninh. So soon as these places are captured, he is to propose another renewal of negotiations, and if again unsuccessful, is to seize one of the five large ports of China, but not either Canton or Shanghai. It will be seen that the Admiral's movements give an appearance of truth to these telegrams. The date of his attack on Sontai is not inconsistent with the notion that his advance was regulated, in the main, by directions from Paris, and if this view be correct, the assault of Bac-ninh is not likely to be long delayed. The negotiations alluded to are perplexing for two reasons. First, that Admiral Courbet is not situated so as to make negotiations with the Chinese authorities possible; and, secondly, that the negotiations were to have been proposed on the basis of the then military position in Tonquin. Now the French Cabinet has declared, more than once, that the possession of Sontai and Bac-ninh is absolutely essential to the consummation of France's projects; and we can scarcely believe that any arrangement, not including the occupation of these places, would have been deliberately proposed. After their occupation, there is little doubt that France will be ready to come to terms on the basis of the then *status*. The capture of Bac-ninh will not prove, we suspect, an operation of much difficulty. It is true that China does not appear to have put any strength into the defence of Sontai. There is, indeed, good reason to doubt whether she had any troops there at all. Whatever resistance the French encountered, and a pretty stout resistance it was, must be credited to the Black Flags alone. The garrison of Bac-ninh is therefore much stronger numerically, and the place has the advantage of being beyond the range of heavy artillery from the ships. But, on the other hand, it offers few facilities for defence from a military point of view, and, moreover, Pang's braves, raw recruits as they are, will probably be found to have less stomach for fighting than Liu's veterans. Yet even with Sontai and Bac-ninh in their possession, the French must see that they will not have advanced far towards a satisfactory settlement. China can keep up the same desultory species of resistance for an indefinite time, without actually acknowledging a state of war, and in the meanwhile the anti-foreign feeling will be growing, and the chance of unpleasant complications increasing, throughout the Empire. It is probably because M. Ferry foresees all this that he has resolved to make the capture of one of the five ports the next step in the proceedings after Bac-ninh has fallen. Canton and Shanghai are excluded from the programme, we are told, the reason for this forbearance being that France wishes to avoid all possibility of trouble with the European powers. We are disposed to think that, with this object in view, Formosa is likely to be the scene of operations. The seizure of a port of the mainland could only be a temporary measure, but the occupation of Formosa would include contingencies which the Chinese Government could not endure to contemplate calmly. Little as we can sympathise with the French pretensions in this business, or with the manner in which they have been advanced, we feel that some decisive action leading to a final and immediate settlement would be ultimately

more conducive to the interests of both Chinese and foreigners, than the present policy of unconfessed warfare and unreal negotiations.

MR. GLADSTONE'S position after the receipt of the news announcing the destruction of Hicks Pasha's army, seems to have been particularly embarrassing. A Cabinet Council was held on November 24th, and it is stated that every one of those present, with the exception of the Prime Minister, urged the advisability of establishing a British protectorate over Egypt. If this account be trustworthy, the course advocated by the leading London journals would appear to be endorsed by an overwhelming majority in the Ministry. Mr. Gladstone, however, is said to have stoutly opposed the adoption of any policy which would commit England to an active military support of the Khedive's enterprises against El Mahdi. His reported line of argument was that Great Britain's leading objects had already been accomplished in Egypt, and that her honour was concerned in the speedy withdrawal of her troops according to the pledges given to the Powers. At the same time he admitted that this withdrawal must necessarily be delayed, in view of recent events, though it could not be avoided on account of any assistance England might be supposed to owe the Khedive in his movements against the False Prophet. In short, Mr. Gladstone's contention was that the Soudan is entirely beyond the legitimate sphere of British interference, and, for the rest, he is understood to have said that an invasion of Lower Egypt by El Mahdi did not appear imminent. In the face, however, of the Cabinet's universal dissent from the Premier's ideas, it was finally decided to retain the garrison at Cairo, a decision which seems to have produced a most salutary effect in restoring confidence to the Egyptian Government. The Khedive immediately issued a proclamation announcing that the British forces would not be withdrawn, and the announcement was instrumental in checking a panic that threatened to paralyse the whole of Lower Egypt. Meanwhile, the report of the False Prophet's success is said to have seriously alarmed the Porte. The Sultan begged the Ulemas to use their influence against El Mahdi at Mecca, but the request does not appear to have elicited a favorable response. Telegraphic despatches state that the Sultan then ordered immediate preparations for an expedition to the Soudan, and that steps to raise the necessary funds were taken without delay. On the other hand, we read, under date December 4th, that the French Ambassador at Constantinople was "instructed to inform the Porte that under no circumstances would France allow Turkey to intervene in the Soudan." We are at a loss to understand by what possible right such a veto could be interposed, seeing that the revolt in Upper Egypt is openly directed against the Sultan, whom El Mahdi has denounced as a man of impure origin and a corrupter of the faith of Islam. At all events, whether or no the Marquis de Noailles conveyed this intimation to the Porte, we find Great Britain agreeing, a week later, that Turkish frigates might be permitted to act in concert with the English fleet in the Red Sea, on condition the frigates did not carry any troops. The British Government has evidently adhered to its resolution not to engage directly in the affair, and the Khedive has therefore been obliged to fall back upon Baker Pacha and Zebehr Pacha, who were to have set

out from Cairo to Suakim on December the 13th. Baker's force was to consist of 2,300 gendarmes (of whom 500 were mounted), 1,500 black troops, and 4,000 Bedouins with five guns. These troops were additional to those stationed at Suakim; but, according to latest advices, the garrison of that place numbered only 500 effectives, and the danger of night attacks from the rebels was so imminent that H.M.S. *Ranger* was engaged throwing shells over the town to scare the enemy. Baker's plan of campaign seems to be that the Blacks and half the Bedouins under Zebehr shall advance from Suakim towards Berber, while the other half of the Bedouins, under Hussein Pacha, go up the Nile, recruiting *en route*. The two forces will endeavour to effect a junction between Berber and Suakim. It must be confessed, however, that the prospects of this campaign do not look very promising, as will be gathered from the following account, extracted from the *New York Herald*, of the events that occurred in the neighbourhood of Suakim on the 2nd of December:—

Another fearful massacre has befallen a detachment of the Egyptian army while on the march from Suakim to Berber on December 2. At the halting place in a wady, thirty miles from Suakim, a force of 800 negroes and Bashi Bazouks were utterly annihilated by Kabbabish Bedouins who have declared for the False Prophet.

The troops were marching with most of their Remingtons packed on camels, when, suddenly, over five thousand Bedouins, armed with spears and old muzzle loaders, attacked the detachment. The camels all stampeded. About six hundred troops managed to form a square—the blacks on three faces, the Bashi Bazouks on the fourth. The fight lasted only about twenty minutes, the Bedouins crying, "Join us and kill the Christian dogs from Cairo!"

All the Bashi Bazouks were killed. Many of the blacks threw up their hands, shouting, "Aleikum salaam!" "Peace be to you, true Mussulmans," and then went over to the Arabs. The moral effect of this new victory of El Mahdi's followers is spreading like wildfire, his emissaries and dervishes appearing already in Upper Egypt and Assouan—the usual halting place for Cook's Nile tourists—and preaching holy war.

The whole country is in a blaze. The rank and file of the Egyptian army at a favorable moment is likely to declare for the False Prophet, who is now regarded by the entire population as the true Messiah of Islam. Now only 1,000 men are left to form the garrison at Suakim. The Arabs are firing shots into the town every night. Baker Pacha expects to leave on Wednesday or Saturday at the latest, but he can now merely watch events; and any march to Berber is deemed impossible.

Already the effect of Tel-el-Kebir is more than neutralized; and the gravest consequences may ensue in the delta, as well as in Upper Egypt. The Egyptian government is considering the question of laying a cable in the Red Sea between Suakim and Suez. King John of Abyssinia is collecting all the Abyssinians and Gallas tribes of the south and is ready to make a dash upon Massowah and acquire the long coveted seaports.

Another account of the Egyptian defeat says that spies entered Suakim and reported that the hill men were hovering near the town. On hearing this Mahmoud Taper Pacha, anxious to efface the defeat at Toka on the 6th ult., on account of which a court martial was pending, sent forward 500 black troops and 200 Bashi-Bazouks against the hill tribes, he himself remaining at Suakim. At the distance of three hours' march from the town the Egyptians were attacked by several thousand men. The Egyptians fought stubbornly, but were cut to pieces. Fifty, of whom half were officers, escaped. This defeat of the troops which have hitherto been regarded as the flower of the army has caused great consternation, as it tends to show that the task of opening the route from Suakim to Berber with the material at Baker Pacha's disposal is a nearly hopeless one. The Sultan of Turkey has despatched an aide-de-camp to Hedjaz and two court dervishes to the Soudan on errands relating to El Mahdi's revolt.

The present disaster, following on the annihilation of Captain Moncrieff's force near Suakim last month, indicate a general rising of the Bedouin tribes under the banner of the False Prophet. It shows that the relief of Khartoum will be a most difficult operation and that the proposed line of defence between Suakim and Berber will be almost impossible to maintain against El Mahdi's advance. A letter from Suakim gives an account of Captain Moncrieff's fate. He landed with Mahmoud Pacha at Trinkitat, forty-five miles south of Suakim, whence he marched to Toka. The force lost eleven officers and 142 men, besides six Turks and several Greeks; they lost also one gun and three hundred rifles. Captain Moncrieff was last seen on horseback surrounded by the enemy and defending himself with his revolver until he was dragged from his horse, overcome by numbers, and cut to pieces. The reports of the engagement, if so it can be called, are to the effect that the Egyptian troops were formed in a square, as usual, but that the square was broken into by eight of the enemy, who locked their shields and rushed through the line. An immediate panic seized the troops, who fled in confusion, throwing away their arms, ammunition, water, bread; and even stripping off their clothes in order to escape the faster. Mahmoud Pacha returned to Suakim, and refused again to face the rebels with such troops. Toka is held for the Egyptian government by a body of soldiers of the Soudan army, assisted by some impressed convicts. A panic prevails at Suakim, and it is suggested that black troops should be ordered up from Massowah.

Zebehr Pacha, whom the Khedive has selected to act with Baker, is famous as the conqueror of Darfour, and, after the Mahdi, is said to be the most remarkable man the Soudan has produced. It is reported that he is a bitter enemy of Gordon Pacha, and that his ideas of the value of English officers for campaigning in the Soudan are not at all complimentary. One half, he says, would fall sick, and the other half nurse them. What he would like is to have thirty or forty Ulemas to preach the true religion, a process that would dispose of El Mahdi and his pretensions in a very short time.

THE fire at Sapporo, which recently consumed the house occupied by Professor Brooks, of the Imperial Agricultural College, broke out in the servants' quarters and at a most inconvenient hour of the night, namely, eleven o'clock. Professor Brooks and his wife, and a guest, Miss Shaw, escaped in their night-clothes, and nothing was saved. Happily, the inmates sustained no injury.

WE (*Hongkong Daily Press*) hear that the Kwang-tung authorities have officially notified the foreign Consuls at Canton that the river is about to be blocked, leaving only a narrow channel for the passage of vessels up.

THE *Mercury* says:—"A telegram has been received from St. Petersburg, announcing the death in December last of Mr. P. A. Ponomareff, head of the well-known tea firm Ponomareff & Co., in Hankow. Deceased was 42 years of age, and came out to the Far East as a youth, without any means, some twenty years ago. He is said to have left seven million dollars."

THE report of the P. & O. S. N. Co. shows that the net profits of the year amount to £212,310, which after deducting an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. admits of a further dividend of 2½ per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent., a balance of £9,310 being carried forward to a new account. Considering the badness of trade, and the loss caused to the Company by the enforcement of quarantine in Egypt and Italy, this is a very satisfactory result.

It is reported (says the *Courier*) that the commander of the forces in Chekiang, accompanied by the Ningpo Taotai, has lately visited a place called Chin Wu-kung, near to the entrance to the river reading to Ningpo, and that it has been decided to build a fort there. Some European soldiers are said to have been buried on the spot where the fort is to be built, and a small memorial erected to the memory of an instructor in the British Army is reported to have been removed. Foreigners have to respect the remains of Chinese, and why should not Chinese be respectfully requested to respect the burial place of British soldiers?

THE story of the loss of the British bark *Sattara*, of Liverpool, is a very simple one. It appears that the vessel was in a Westerly gale on Sunday last off Omaisaki, and in an attempt to wear ship, which failed, she drifted and was stranded about five miles to the westward of the light. The accident occurred in the middle of the day, and fortunately no lives were lost. The *Sattara* may be reckoned a total loss, as she lies bilged and with her back broken. The captain has engaged the schooner *Helena* of this port to visit the scene of the wreck to bring back the crew.

THE JAPANESE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE progress of Japanese reform has, of necessity, been very slow in the direction of the Civil Service. The circumstance sattuending the fall of feudalism, though, theoretically, they overthrew the old-fashioned doctrine so long prevalent in England and still paramount in the United States, that public offices are the property of the ruler, were nevertheless of such a nature as to unavoidably perpetuate that evil. For, while the permanent existence of the Government of the Restoration depended, in great part, on the selection of competent men to fill the various administrative posts, its immediate safety could only be secured by mitigating, as far as possible, the financial disasters which the abolition of the Daimiates entailed in so many cases. It is the statesman's first duty to adapt his reforms to the conditions he has to deal with, and we cannot be at all surprised that the Central Government of Japan, in the early days of its existence, paid more attention to the clamour of needy *Samurai* than to the strict dictates of economy. Members of Cabinet and Heads of Departments must have been more than human to ignore the distress of their clansmen and supporters, and to turn a deaf ear to the appeals of men whose abstract title to the privileges and emoluments of office was as valid as their own. It resulted, therefore, that during the first few years of the Mediatized Government's existence, the public offices were crowded with apparently functionless functionaries, whose principal business seemed to be of a mutually obstructive nature, and whose numbers were so obviously excessive that foreign critics, ignoring, or not caring to know, the exceptional circumstances of the case, saw constant justification for preferring, against the chiefs of the new bureaucracy, sounding charges of corruption, nepotism, and iniquitous alienation of public money.

This was bad enough, but there followed another, and, if possible, a worse, evil. The process of weeding out these redundant establishments had to be undertaken sooner or later. Before long the task was commenced, and, at the approach of financial periods, each department of State was visited by a convulsion—an earthquake, as the light-hearted sufferers were pleased to call it—which shook off a cluster of the useless parasites, and gradually reduced the staff to moderate dimensions. Necessarily, however, there sprung up, under the influence of these constant shocks, an universal consciousness of insecurity. Nobody knew whose turn should come next. It would be unfair to assume, and indeed there is little reason for the assumption, that these winnowings of the grain from the chaff were largely subserved to favoritism or party-spirit. But they probably suffered from such taints at least as much as would have been the case elsewhere,

and they certainly had the effect of inducing a perceptible paralysis, or perfunctoriness, of effort throughout the middle and lower grades of the public service.

To remedy this evil—to restore, or rather to impart, to the service something of that stability so essential to zeal and efficiency—the evident plan was to institute a system of superannuation allowances. Nearly three years ago, the advisability of taking some step in this direction was strongly urged in our columns, but the Government, though, we believe, long cognizant of the necessity, only recently succeeded in adapting other conditions to the proposed reform. A Notification, which we translate elsewhere, has now been issued, enacting various regulations for the grant of superannuation allowances and gratuities to civil servants, and we cannot doubt that the measure will be welcomed heartily by all Japan's friends. It was no light matter that men who had served their country well should be cast off, like worn-out garments, when the occasion was convenient, or when age began to impair their usefulness.

It is right to mention here, that, even before the promulgation of the Notification in question, there did exist, in the Japanese Civil Service, a system of gratuities intended to recompense long service. But it was an exceedingly illiberal system. Half the amount of an official's monthly salary was multiplied by the number of years he had served, and the product represented his gratuity, on retirement. Thus, to take an example, an appointment of 200 *yen* per month entitled its holder, on retiring from office after twenty years' service, to receive a lump sum of two thousand *yen*. We call this an illiberal system, because, first, it contrasts markedly with the rules for the commutation of pensions in England, where the lump sum receivable, by way of gratuity,* amounts to a year's average pay multiplied by two-thirds of the length of service in years; and secondly, because the emoluments of office in Japan are so small that a gratuity calculated on the above basis, represented, in a great majority of cases, the veriest pittance.

Questions of this nature occupied the public mind in England also, not so very many years ago. Looking back at the annals of the English civil service, we find that the present system of superannuation allowances had its origin in a practice which grew up, in certain of the larger offices, during the first half of the reign of GEORGE III., when, by voluntary collections from the salaries of Civil Servants, a fund was provided for the support of those who might be disabled in the discharge of their duties, or who might retire after long service. Indeed, it would surprise a great many Englishmen to be told the truth about their Civil Service.

* This money is paid by a Life Insurance office, not directly by the Treasury.

For up to the year 1810, those doing duty in the State departments were little more than private clerks, or *employés*, of the head of their department. They had no legal status as public officials, and their pay came out of a fund made up of the fees collected in the department; the balance of which fund, like the appointing power itself, was regarded as a part of the perquisites of the Minister or head of the office. This state of affairs was a part of the old "spoils system" which had formerly prevailed, and under which offices and places in the Civil Service were simply saleable property. The statutes of 1810 and 1816 remedied these false conditions by making all those engaged in the established service public officials with fixed salaries. About the same time, too, attention seems to have been directed to the desirability of making the Service more attractive by means of provisions for disability or declining years. In 1811 a partial measure in this direction was inaugurated, and its results proved so conducive to efficiency, as well as to economy, that various modifications followed, always in a liberal sense; until, in 1859, a final revision of the laws brought them to their present form. The rule now is that, if there has not been more than ten years' service, there can be no allowance. The retiring allowance, after ten, and before eleven, years of service, is at the rate of ten-sixtieths of the current salary of which the official is in receipt at the time. At eleven years of service, the allowance is eleven-sixtieths of the salary, and so on, increasing at the rate of one-sixtieth for every year of service up to forty years, after which there is no increase. Thus the maximum allowance, under ordinary circumstances, amounts to two-thirds of the salary.

These data enable us to compare the system now inaugurated in Japan with that prevailing in England. In Japan the general rule is that a minimum of fifteen years' service is necessary to establish eligibility for superannuation allowance: in England the minimum is ten years. On the other hand, the amount of the allowance after fifteen years' service is the same in both cases, viz., one-fourth (in England fifteen-sixtieths) of the retiring officer's salary. The rate of increase, however, is different; being in England one-sixtieth per annum, and in Japan only one-two-hundred-and-fortieth. Again, while in England the increase continues up to forty years, after which length of service the allowance is two-thirds of the salary, in Japan, the increase ceases after thirty-five years, when the allowance becomes one-third of the salary. It thus appears that, in its main features, the Japanese scale is less liberal than the English. Doubtless, under the circumstances, this is an error on the right side.

An integral part of the English method of securing faithful and efficient officers is that the salaries are carefully graded, so

that there are regular additions dependent upon length and excellence of service. We have reason to believe that reforms in this sense are not yet completed in Japan, though much has been undoubtedly effected. It will be seen, however, that the new Regulations embody carefully guarded provisions for the granting of special, or discretionary, allowances, up to a fixed limit, in cases of severe bodily injury or disability incurred in the execution of duty, abolition of offices, and so forth. These details find their counterpart in the English system. We miss, however, in the Japanese regulations, any clauses referring to exceptional merit or special service of great public value. Possibly the power to deal with these cases is specially reserved, but without some provision for its exercise, the system cannot be considered perfect.

A most important regulation is that which enacts that, except in special cases of incapacity through illness or physical injury, no official becomes eligible for a pension before he is sixty years of age. It is evidently the desire of Japanese legislators to make superannuation allowances a genuine provision for old age. We are not prepared to say that the method adopted is too severe, having regard to the peculiar circumstances of Japan's case, but we may observe that the same limit of age formerly existed in the pension regulations of the English Colonial Office, and that its effects proved very harsh in practice. The rule, however, told with most severity in the case of high officials whose offices were not permanent, and who often found themselves, at about the age of fifty, without any hope of re-appointment or any sufficient means of support. In the Japanese Regulations, some provision against these contingencies appears to be made in the shape of special pensions to officials of the upper grades (*vide* second clause of Article II.).

It has been said that the prosperity of the principal European States is owing, in a great degree, to the character of their Civil Service, which has been instrumental to the development of their resources and to public economy. Fully endorsing this, we welcome with satisfaction everything tending to the moral regeneration of official life in Japan. The institution of superannuation allowances is a step in the right direction. It was preceded by another reform, not generally known, but even more indicative of the Government's fidelity to the spirit of improvement. We allude to an order recently issued to the various departments that in future the minimum of service in any grade before promotion to a higher shall be four years. We learn also that the authorities contemplate inaugurating tests of qualification, or, in other words, substituting the "merit system" for the arbitrary methods now existing. It is scarcely necessary to say that the sooner this change can be effected, the better. The consequence of a similar reform in the British Service has been not

only that a limit is set to the exercise of improper authority, to intrigue and venal influence, but that Government itself assumes in the eyes of the people a purer aspect. Men see that while servility and manipulation, partisan scheming and official prostitution, are repudiated, honour and emolument are brought within reach of the best capacity and the highest character: that, in short, fidelity to public interests is an obligation paramount to all the selfish claims of individuals and of parties. It will be a happy day for Japan's prestige and prosperity when she finds herself in a position to remove from her Civil Service the traces of feudal institutions and arbitrary government.

JAPAN'S CRITICS.

THAT a Hongkong journal should be ill-informed in matters relating to Japan is not surprising. Ignorance of this country and its people is the normal condition of foreigners who reside here, and a similar, or even greater, want of knowledge may well be pardoned in a journalist living a thousand miles away. What does, however, surprise us a little is that this lack of information should be thought no obstacle to the delivery of *ex cathedra* opinions on Japanese affairs by a newspaper which, like the *Hongkong Daily Press*, manifests a general desire to be just and accurate. Perhaps the key to this enigma is to be found in the fact that our Colonial contemporary entirely underestimates the extent and importance of the subject he undertakes to discuss. He calls the abandonment of extraterritoriality in Japan a threadbare question, and then proceeds to dismiss it with an airy statement that "when the Japanese enjoy under their own laws the full security for life, property, and reputation which is conferred by the laws of Western nations, then foreigners may cease to claim extraterritoriality." This is an unimpeachable position. It brings the problem at once within reach of a few pretty platitudes and enables the advocates of extraterritoriality to strike an imposing attitude. But we want something more than platitudes. We want to know, for example, who is to be the judge of Japan's condition. Who is to say whether or no she enjoys, under her own laws, full security for life, property, and reputation? The *Hongkong Daily Press* evidently thinks that the judgment is to rest with foreigners, and gives us an example of the grounds upon which the verdict may be based by quoting the recent police case at Nagasaki. "Instead," he says, "of the policeman, accused of causing the death of the Chinaman who was killed, being placed on his trial in ordinary course, and being held convicted or acquitted according to the result of such trial, the case was made the subject of a private investigation." Hence our Colonial contemporary argues that "in

Japan the judicial process is not independent of active interference by the executive, and that consequently the operation of the law is not certain and impartial." This reasoning is perfectly fair and logical so far as it goes, but it stops short at a very important point. It fails to show that there was anything out of "the ordinary course," or that the judicial power was in any way interfered with by the executive, in the case under consideration. We have to remember that the matter of investigation at Nagasaki was the act of a body of police in the discharge of their duty, and that while the act itself might properly have been tried by the usual tribunal, the duty had been made the subject of diplomatic representations by the Chinese Government, and the whole affair had excited feelings by which, unfortunately, those engaged in the controversy on the Chinese side had suffered themselves to be unduly influenced. Under these circumstances it was considered wiser, in the interests of public order and international comity, to conduct the investigation into the conduct of the police with closed doors. In commenting on the fact, we said that "such a course is within the discretion of every Government," of which assertion the *Hongkong Daily Press* declares that "a more lamentable display of ignorance it is almost impossible to conceive," and that "so far from the course followed in the case in question being one which is 'within the discretion of every Government,' it is one which would never be dreamt of in any civilized country of which public trial is one of the institutions." It is unfortunate that before passing this sweeping judgment upon the incorrectness of our position, the *Daily Press* did not take steps to supplement its own singularly imperfect information. In Articles 263 and 264 of the Japanese Code of Criminal Procedure, which came into force in January, 1881, we find the following provisions:—

Art. 263.—All criminal, correctional, and simple police cases brought before the jurisdictions of judgment will be there examined, debated, and decided in public court under pain of nullity of the condemnation pronounced.

Art. 264.—Nevertheless, if, according to the nature of the accusations, the discussion would appear to be dangerous to public order, to decency, or to good manners, the tribunal may, either on the decision of the public administration, or on its own authority, direct that the discussions shall take place without the presence of the public. The judgment must always be given in public.

This code, which in all its leading features reflects the most enlightened spirit of Western jurisprudence, has been critically examined by several juris-consults of European reputation, and their detailed verdicts, published at intervals in the columns of the *Japan Mail*, were, without exception, highly favorable. It did not occur to one of these specialists, who had made the science of law their lifelong study, to find fault with the discretionary power vested in the public administration by the Article we have quoted. It did not occur to them to find fault, for the simple reason,

that the same power is vested, and must always be vested, in the public administration of European States, of whose methods, for the rest, the new criminal procedure of Japan is a counterpart. Yet because exceptional circumstances dictated an exercise of this exceptional power in Japan, the *Hongkong Daily Press* does not hesitate to assert that "healthy public opinion, which in our own country is the greatest safeguard of the purity of the administration of justice, is wanting in Japan, and in the absence of such safeguard, how can foreigners give their assent to the abolition of extritoriality?" We know not whether to marvel more at the ignorance or the recklessness of these comments. The commonest principles of justice require that before levelling wholesale denunciations against a Government and a people, a public writer should take some pains to inform himself of the correctness of his premises. This easy precaution has been wholly neglected by the *Hongkong Daily Press*. Our Colonial contemporary will do well to remember, in future, that even among the recognized institutions of Western civilization there may be something which is not yet included within the limits of his profound knowledge.

Nothing in the outlook of Japan's foreign relations appears to us more hopeless than the carelessness and ignorance of those who, from proximity and experience, ought to be best able to appreciate her condition. Here we have a case of a Hongkong journalist who, speaking with all the assurance of authenticated knowledge, informs his readers that "while Japanese ideas on jurisprudence remain so very different from those of Westerns, the maintenance of the present system of extritoriality is indispensable." This difference, so loudly proclaimed, rests, as we have shown, on the evidence of a proceeding strictly in accordance with the provisions of a code which, in all its leading features, is an exact counterpart of the systems now obtaining in the most civilized Occidental States, and which has elicited warm encomiums from the most celebrated European jurisconsults. Under ordinary circumstances such grotesque sciolism as that displayed by the Hongkong newspaper would be dismissed with a smile of contempt, but, most unfortunately for Japan, her reputation lies, to a great extent, in the hands of local critics. The outside world, in general, has no means of ascertaining the truth or falsehood of what these critics say, and is naturally disposed to defer to their exceptional opportunities of obtaining information. During the past three years the provisions of the new codes have been carefully observed in Japan. The trial of accused persons, even political offenders, has invariably been conducted with the utmost publicity; every latitude has been given to counsel, and the judges have shown themselves painstaking and im-

partial. All this, however, is passed over in silence, and because the conduct of policemen, in the discharge of an unusual duty, is carried, by a foreign treaty Power, altogether outside the domain of every-day criminal procedure, and is consequently investigated in a manner prescribed by a part of the code specially adapted to extraordinary contingencies, an English journalist flippantly declares that Japanese do not enjoy under their own laws full security for life, property, and reputation. To grapple with such ignorance and recklessness seems truly a Sisyphean task. We do not like to think that the deliberate object of those foreign local writers who discuss the subject of treaty revision, is to throw dust in the eyes of the public. Yet in the face of their sweeping errors and contradictions, we know not what else to conclude. Only a few days ago, an English newspaper, published in Yokohama, contained the following statement:—"Japan is said to demand that the extritorial rights of aliens shall be totally abrogated, and that the customs tariff shall be fixed entirely at the will and pleasure of the Government." Now not only have no such demands ever been made by Japan; not only has she never been seriously accused of making any such demands; but the very journal which contains this extraordinary statement, itself published, some time ago, a series of leading articles on the subject of treaty revision, and in them fully explained that Japan asks for nothing more than a limited amount of jurisdiction over foreigners, as a probationary step, but above all, to correct the glaring deficiencies which exist under the present system, and whose existence the journal in question fully and frankly acknowledged. What conclusion are we to draw from such strange tergiversations? A newspaper which yesterday told its readers that the demands of Japan are limited and reasonable, and to-day informs them that the same demands are unlimited and unreasonable, must surely be swayed by passion and prejudice rather than by fairness and love of truth. We cannot wonder that the outcome of all this, so far as the general public is concerned, should be helpless bewilderment. And yet it is most important that the position should be clearly understood. Again we repeat, what we have often said before, that the Japanese Government does not claim the right to "fix the tariff entirely at its own will and pleasure." The day must come when it will enjoy that right, like every free State in the Occident, but for the present it is willing to pay the utmost respect to vested interests, and to proceed with whatever degree of deliberation may be considered advisable. Neither does "Japan demand that the extritorial rights of aliens shall be totally abrogated." Even were she prepared to formulate such a demand, its wisdom would be very doubtful, in view of the strong race prejudices

of those over whom she would have to exercise jurisdiction. What she asks is that there shall be inaugurated some system pointing to the abolition of extritoriality hereafter, and so contrived as to correct abuses in the present. This end would be accomplished by restoring to her a limited amount of jurisdiction, extending, for example, to misdemeanours and delicts. In the event of such an arrangement being made, she has offered to guarantee that in every case where a foreigner is tried, a majority of the Judges on the bench shall be foreign, and that simple police cases shall be investigated by a Japanese and foreign magistrate, the decision of the latter to be binding in case of disagreement. In making this proposal, Japan's avowed object is the complete opening of the country, so that aliens shall enjoy here all the privileges of trade, travel, and residence, which Japanese enjoy when they visit the West. The extritorial system was devised to suit a condition of partial intercourse, and it is as much Japan's desire, as it is the professed aim of the Treaty Powers, to remedy that condition. All this has been repeated over and over again, but when simply and honestly stated, it presents such a reasonable and laudable programme, that those who desire to perpetuate the existing state of affairs find it necessary wholly to misrepresent Japan's proposals, and falsely to attribute to her Government demands which are calculated to excite foreign apprehension and opposition. It is a discreditable state of affairs; discreditable to the honesty of foreign criticism; discreditable to the consistency of foreign professions, and discreditable to the intelligence of foreign judgment. But we have the comfort of knowing that truth will prevail in this instance, as it has ever prevailed. Sooner or later the attitude of foreigners towards Japan will cease to reflect that race prejudice of which they themselves are the loudest deprecators; and sooner or later European Governments will recognise that this nation cannot be condemned to a perpetual state of partial intercourse with its fellows, and to the continued stigma of semi-barbarous isolation, simply because the local interests of a few hundred foreigners have drifted into a groove that runs in the opposite direction from real progress and larger international fellowship.

THE BANKS OF EUROPE.

At the last session of the International Congress of Statisticians, held at Budapesth, the Statistical Society of Italy was commissioned to prepare an enquiry into the condition of the note-issuing banks of Europe. The work has been completed,* and is composed of a series of monographs referring to the banking establishments of France, Great Britain, Italy, Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, the

* *Statistique internationale des banques d'émission.*

Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and Spain. The details furnished enable one to form an idea of the systems of the different banks, the different circumstances of their origin, and the services they render to Government and the public.

The banks of France, Spain, Belgium, and the Netherlands, possess features which betray, if not a common origin, at least many points of resemblance. We may trace throughout them all general ideas which prevailed at the establishment of the Bank of France. The fundamental statutes of the latter were enacted by Imperial Decree, on January 16th, 1808; and the capital was then 90 millions (francs). After the Revolution of 1848, the departmental banks, founded under the First Empire, were absorbed into the central institution; the power of issuing notes exchangeable on demand was extended to the end of 1897, and the capital was fixed at 182½ millions of francs. The affairs of the bank are in no way mixed up with those of the State, though the latter appoints its Governor. The board of management is elected by the shareholders, and there are 90 branches. In Spain, the *Banco Español de San-Fernando*, founded in 1829, after various modifications, became, by a decree of March 19th, 1874, the Bank of Spain. Other banks of issue which had existed up to the latter date in eighteen of the principal towns, were thenceforth obliged to unite with the central bank, or to go into liquidation. The Bank of Spain belongs to a society of shareholders, but is under obligation to make certain advances to the State, as well as to collect the taxes in provinces where no official organization exists for that purpose. The Governor and the two vice-Governors are appointed by the KING, but the board of managers, by the shareholders. The capital is 100 millions of *pesetas* (93 million francs). In Belgium an analogous organization exists. The National Bank, possessing the power of issuing notes payable to bearer, was created by a law dated May 5th, 1850. A quarter of its profits belong to the State. It performs the service of the Treasury; is charged with the care of the public funds and with the manipulation of the national debt. The governor and vice-governor are appointed by the KING, and the Government exercises an active surveillance over its operations. The capital is, at present, 50 millions of francs. In Holland, the Netherlands Bank, which alone is authorized to issue notes, was organized, in 1814, on lines laid down twelve years previously by an official of the Batavian Republic. Its statutes were revised in 1864, and its privilege of issue was extended to March 31st, 1889. The first capital, in shares purchased by the Government, was subsequently allotted to the public. The bank performs, at Amsterdam, the service of the State, gratis, and keeps the public funds, of which the total figures in its balance sheets. The KING names the president and secretary; and a special commissioner, whose functions are almost a sinecure, is supposed to watch over its operations. The capital is 16 millions of florins (33,600,000 francs).

These details show that the Bank of France furnished the model of the Spanish, Dutch, and Belgian establishments. The same privileges, and the same methods of naming the board of management, as well as the principal officers, exist throughout. In every case the Bank renders larger service to the Treasury than in France, but the principles which, from the era of the Consulate, have ruled the French organi-

zation, are plainly traceable in the other establishments.

Great Britain possesses a banking system which differs considerably from those we have just considered. The Bank of England is a corporation created, in 1694, by royal charter. Its capital of £14,553,000 (367,026,660 francs) is divided among a great number of proprietors. It is at present conducted according to the principles of PEELE'S Act of 1844, and has a separate department for the issue of notes. These may be issued to the extent of 14 millions sterling on public securities, but beyond that amount every note must have its equivalent in gold in the strong-room. A plurality of note-issuing banks still exists, but their number is undergoing gradual diminution owing to restrictions imposed by the Act of 1844. No provincial bank established since this Act became law can issue notes, nor can the notes of the 279 banks previously existing circulate beyond a radius of 65 miles from London, or exceed the aggregate already issued in 1844. The consequence of these restrictions is that the number of such banks has been reduced to 150. The banks of Scotland and Ireland, however, have the power of issuing notes in excess of the number they had in circulation in 1844, but only on condition that the extra issues are secured by an equivalent in specie. The Bank of England is the Government's bank. It administers the national debt; keeps the accounts of the holders of public stocks as well as of the Government, and pays the interest on the Funds. In addition to these services, it pays the State a yearly tax of £120,000 on its ordinary note issue of 14 millions, and a corresponding percentage on additional issues.

Returning now to the Continent, we find that the banking systems of all the States other than those on the west, reflect the violent political, and consequently economical, shocks produced there during the last quarter of a century. Beginning with Germany, we have an Imperial Bank surrounded by a number of private institutions. The system is governed by the provisions of a law passed March 14th, 1875. Originally the Bank of Prussia and thirty-two private banks exercised the right of issuing notes. In 1867, it was decided that they should all be submitted to the federal legislation. In 1875, the unification of Germany having been accomplished, the Bank of Prussia disappeared and was replaced by the *Reichsbank*, or Bank of the Empire. Its capital, amounting to 140 millions of marks (172,200,000 francs), was formed with that of the Bank of Prussia, supplemented by funds obtained from an issue of interest-bearing Treasury Bonds, and the whole is divided into 40,000 shares. The State concerns itself directly about the affairs of the Bank. The Chancellor superintends it carefully, having under his orders a board of directors named by the Emperor and holding office for life. The private banks have not disappeared. Fifteen of them do not subscribe to the new régime: sixteen have subscribed. They are not allowed to have any branches, and their notes circulate only within the States from which they derive the right of issue. The *Reichsbank* manages all the financial business of the Empire, gratis. It may also be charged with the conduct of business on account of the Confederate States. In addition, the Treasury shares directly in the profits of the Bank. Thus, in 1877, a profit of 4,296,183 marks remaining after interest on capital and allotments to the reserve fund had

been deducted, was divided equally among the shareholders and the State. Side by side with the notes of the Bank, circulates paper-money, to the amount of 120 million marks, issued directly by the Empire and exchangeable for specie at the Treasury.

Coming, now, to Austria, we find only one bank of issue, the National Bank of Austria. Its administration is less directly controlled by the Government than that of the *Reichsbank*, but it is, nevertheless, chiefly occupied in sustaining the Treasury and the public finances, embarrassed as they are by the existence of a fiat currency. The bank's right of issue dates from 1816, and was renewed in 1862. Arrangements were also made at the latter date, to gradually extinguish the State's debt to the institution and to prepare for the resumption of specie payments. The Governor is nominated by the EMPEROR, who also confirms the nomination of the directors chosen by the shareholders. The institution does not, as in Germany, perform the service of the Treasury, but has charge of the finances of the salt-mines, connected with which there is a circulation of 68 millions of florins. The Bank's capital is 90 millions of florins, and its circulation, in 1876, was 286 millions. In the various crises through which the country has passed, the Bank has always come to the assistance of the Treasury, but the result of these events is the fiat currency, first issued in 1862, and still unredeemed; and side by side with it, a paper money of the State, amounting, at one time, to nearly 400 millions of florins.

In Russia there is a veritable State Bank. Before the Crimean war there existed in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and other large towns, official banks, the assets of which had been absorbed by the State. The Bank of Russia was then founded. It took charge of the reserves, and assumed the liabilities of the former Banks, and its capital, amounting to 20 millions of roubles (80 million francs) was furnished by the Treasury. From whatever direction this institution be examined, it is found to be only a species of ministry, whose operations, good or bad, go to enrich or impoverish the Treasury. It is divided into two parts, one of which has to do with State affairs, the other with commercial. It includes its paper issues among its assets, and the Treasury is supposed to be its debtor to that amount. It includes them also among its liabilities under a slightly different name. In 1881 the Treasury owed the bank, on account of paper circulation, 545 millions of roubles. The institution, simple as its lines appear, is by no means a rudimentary affair. Its mechanism is as well conceived as that of the great establishments of the Occident. Among its functions is the very difficult duty of managing the finances connected with the liberation of the serfs.

Finally, we have the Italian Banks. In 1844 the Government of Piedmont created the Bank of Genoa, under the surveillance of a royal Commissioner and sub-Commissioner. The Bank absorbed that of Turin, which had no business, and took the name of the General Bank. It was the germ of the present National Bank, which, following the Piedmontese flag from capital to capital, has its principal office now in Rome. The ancient banks of issue were not, however, abolished. The five principal ones continued to exist, and ultimately united with the National Bank to form the celebrated *Consorzio*, which helped so largely to cure the country of the leprosy of a forced currency. The National Bank

gives a fair idea of Italy's recent progress. In 1870 its capital was 80 millions (francs); its bills and acceptances 198 millions; its circulation 290, and its reserves 159. In 1881, the capital was 200 millions; the bills and acceptances 244; the circulation 461, and the reserves 170.

We have omitted Norway, because the banks there enjoy a *quasi* liberty, which is supposed to have contributed to the wonderful rôle played by the country in marine transport. With the exception of Norway, however, it is worthy of note that the States of Europe are entirely strange to the free banking system, which is said to count for so much in the wonderful commercial prosperity of the United States. Everywhere is conserved the right of the Sovereign to authorize the issue of notes payable at sight or to bearer. The confusion of public and private interests caused by this interference on the part of the State, is not seriously felt in Western Europe, but already in Germany the Treasury of the Empire absorbs a considerable part of the profits which belong properly to private enterprise. Side by side with the notes of the Bank, we have the notes of the State circulating. In Austria the Bank, though more independent in appearance, suffers from the effects of the fiat currency and from the depreciated notes of the State. In Russia matters are still worse, for we have a State Bank issuing paper money below par. There is to be observed also, a general tendency towards a single Bank. In France this tendency has actually matured, and in other countries the local banks have been absorbed, more or less, by a central establishment. This result, whatever may be its bearing upon commercial facilities, certainly enables the Bank to offer more solid assistance to the State at seasons of peril.

NOTIFICATION No. 1 OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

It is hereby Notified that the following Regulations for Granting Pensions to Officials have been enacted:—

REGULATIONS FOR PENSIONS.

Art. I.—Pensions will be granted, on retirement from the service, to Civil Officials of the *Chokunin*, *Sonin*, and *Hannin* classes, according to the number of years they have served and their age.

Art. II.—Pensions will be granted for life to those who, having attained the age of sixty, retire after serving fifteen years or upwards; and to those who, although they have not attained that age, retire on account of the abolition of their office or functions, or on account of incapacity brought about by incurable illness.

Special Pensions may be granted to Ministers of State, Privy Councillors, Ministers of Departments, and Presidents of the Senate or the Council of State, who retire after completing a service of two years, or upwards, in those grades.

Art. III.—Pensions will be granted for life to those who are obliged to retire from the service in consequence of permanent ill-health contracted, or serious injury sustained, in the execution of their official functions, even though their period of service be less than fifteen years.

Art. IV.—In the case of officials who, having become incapacitated for further service by permanent ill-health contracted, or serious injury sustained, in the execution of their duty, shall have forwarded a medical certificate to that effect from a licensed physician, and obtained permission to retire, Pensions will be granted without reference to the number of years they have served.

Officials who come under the categories enume-

rated in Articles III. and IV., and who, moreover, have lost the use of eyes, ears, or a limb, may, in consideration of these facts, whether they apply to retire, or are retired by order, be granted, in addition to their regular pensions (as set forth in Articles III. and IV.), Special Pensions not exceeding seven-tenths of the emoluments of their offices at the time of retirement.

Should the above-mentioned medical certificate from a licensed practitioner seem of a doubtful character, the Head of the Department to which the official belongs, shall cause him to be duly examined by a Government medical officer, and shall be guided by the latter's report.

Art. V.—Pensions shall be based on the salary of which an official is in receipt at the time of retirement. A Pension awarded after fifteen years service will be $\frac{1}{4}$ (or $\frac{1}{10}$) of that salary. For every year after fifteen years service the pension will be increased by $\frac{1}{240}$ of the salary, until, at thirty-five years' service, it attains an aggregate of $\frac{80}{240}$, or $\frac{1}{3}$ of the salary; after which it will not be increased. In the case of officials who retire when not on the effective list, their Pensions will, nevertheless, be calculated on the basis of the salary of their office.

In the cases enumerated in the second clause of Article II., and in Articles III. and IV., Pensions will be awarded amounting to $\frac{1}{4}$ (or $\frac{1}{10}$) of the salary of which the official is in receipt at the time of retirement.

In the case of officials who retire within a year after promotion, the Pension will be calculated on the basis of the salary attached to the grade immediately below that to which they have been promoted. This does not apply, however, to the case of those who retire in consequence of ill-health contracted, or injuries received, in the execution of their duty.

Art. VI.—Those who retire, for reasons connected with their own convenience, before attaining the age of sixty; or who retire after receiving a reprimand for irregular conduct; or who are deprived of office in consequence of a breach of duty or of a conviction before a Criminal Court, will not be eligible for a Pension, even though they have served fifteen years.

Art. VII.—For the purposes of these Regulations, the period of service shall be reckoned from the month of August, 1871: those who received office subsequent to that date will count their service from the month of their appointment; but no service can be reckoned before attaining twenty years of age.

Those who were in office before August, 1871, will receive, in addition to, and at the time of obtaining, their Pension, a lump sum, calculated by multiplying the monthly salary of which they were in receipt in July, 1871, into the number of years they served before the former date.

Art. VIII.—In the case of officials who have previously served in the army or navy, or who are reappointed after having been out of office, previous service shall count towards Pension. But this rule will not apply to service at a distance from Headquarters (*Go-yô tai-sai-chiu*), or to the case of those who have already received Gratuities at the expiration of a fixed period of service, or on giving up office.

Art. IX.—Officials who, being already in receipt of Pensions, are reappointed to office, and who receive, in their subsequent office, emoluments less than they formerly received, will have their ultimate Pension calculated on the basis of their previous emoluments.

Art. X.—In the case of officials of the *Chokunin* or *Sonin* classes, who, being entitled to, or already in receipt of, a Pension, die; or who, though not yet entitled to a Pension, die in the execution of their duty; a special Allowance, not exceeding one half of the Pension of which the deceased was in receipt, or for which he would have been eligible, will be granted to his widow for her sustenance, during life. Should there be no widow, the same Allowance will be granted to his child and heir,

whether boy or girl, own or adopted, until he or she shall have attained the age of twenty years. In order to be eligible under this Regulation, a widow must have been duly registered in her husband's family.

In the case of officials of the *Hannin* class, the provisions of this article shall apply to those only who, being eligible for Pension, die in the execution of their duty. Further, the Allowance shall be made to widows only: orphans, parents, grandparents, brothers, and sisters shall not be eligible.

Art. XI.—Should a widow re-register herself in her parents' family, re-marry, or die, the Pension of which she was in receipt will be granted to her child and heir, provided the latter is less than 20 years of age.

A daughter who marries, or a son who enters the Government service and receives pay, or who becomes a student in one of the Government colleges at the Government's charges, shall not receive any Pension.

Art. XII.—When there is neither widow nor progeny eligible for Allowance, or when a widow re-registers herself in her parents' family, or remarries, and there is no progeny, a special Allowance, not exceeding two thirds of that for which the widow or heir would have been eligible, may be granted, for life, to the parents or grandparents of the deceased, should they have been dependent on the deceased and without any one to support them.

Art. XIII.—When parents and grand parents are living, the Allowance shall be granted to the father; and to the mother, should he die or forfeit it. The grand-father and grand-mother will become eligible after the father and mother in the same order and under the same conditions. To become eligible under this rule, fathers or grand-fathers must be at least fifty years of age, or incapacitated, by permanent illness or deformity, from carrying on any trade: mothers and grand-mothers must be widows, and must have attained the age of fifty at the time of the deceased's death.

Art. XIV.—When a widow who is eligible for an Allowance, has neither progeny, parents, or grandparents, living, a Gratuity, not less than the amount of the widows pension for one year, and not exceeding the aggregate of that pension for five years, may be specially granted to her brothers or sisters, provided they were dependent upon the deceased and are less than twenty years of age, or being more than twenty, are incapacitated, by illness or deformity.

Art. XV.—Pensions shall be paid from the month after retirement from office, and Allowances from the month after the death of the official who was in receipt of, or eligible for, the Pension.

Art. XVI.—After the Head of the Department, or of the Local Office to which the claimant of a Pension or an Allowance belongs, shall have submitted due proofs of eligibility to the Pension Bureau, and after the latter shall have duly investigated the case, the grant shall be finally determined by the First Minister of State.

Should the recipient of a Pension or an Allowance have any complaint to make in connection with it, the grounds of complaint must be forwarded to the Head of the Department, or Local Office, to which the complainant belonged, for submission to the Pension Bureau. Complaints of this nature must not be made to a Court of law.

Art. XVII.—The Council of State will issue certificates to those who are entitled to Pensions or Allowances.

Art. XVIII.—A Pension shall be forfeited by persons who are deprived of their civil rights. Under the undermentioned conditions the Pension will be suspended during the several periods referred to:—

- 1.—When civil rights are suspended.
- 2.—When receiving a salary after a second appointment.
- 3.—When ceasing to be a Japanese subject under unavoidable circumstances.

4.—When living abroad without permission from the Government.

Art. XIX.—Should the recipient of an Allowance be convicted of an offence involving a punishment of major detention or upwards, or come under the 3rd or 4th conditions of Art. XVIII., the Allowance shall cease.

Art. XX.—When an official entitled to a Pension retires from the service, the Head of the Department or Local Office to which he belongs, shall forward to the Council of State an application for Pension, covering the official's records, and, in the event of his retirement being caused by illness or injury, duly authenticated medical certificates and explanations of the circumstances of the case.

Art. XXI.—Applicants for Allowances must forward to the head of the Local Office concerned the following documents:—(1) an application bearing the names of the applicant and two of his or her relatives (and that of his or her guardian, if there is one); in cases where no relatives are living, the application must bear the names of two heads of families of the applicant's locality: (2) a copy of the applicant's registration certificate (and of any grant of Pension or Allowance which may have been already received): (3) in case the official in connection with whom the Allowance is applied for has died in the execution of his duty, an accurate statement of the nature and circumstances of his decease, accompanied by a duly authenticated medical certificate. On receipt of these documents, the Head of the Office, after carefully investigating the facts of the case, will forward the documents, with a covering application, for the decision of the Council of State. Applications, not made within a year of the event to which they refer cannot be entertained.

Art. XXII.—When a Pension or Allowance is stopped, the fact will be notified by the Pension Bureau to the Local Office concerned, and the latter will recover the certificates, from the recipient of the Pension or Allowance, within two weeks. Should the recipient of a Pension or Allowance die, or change registration, the remaining members of the family or relatives must forward a statement of the fact to the Head of the Local Office concerned, for transmission, with a covering statement, to the Pension Bureau.

Art. XXIII.—Pensions and Allowances will be paid by the Finance Department and transmitted through the Local Authorities in June and December, every year, for the whole of the preceding half year, or for such portion of it as may be due.

Art. XXIV.—Those applying for payment of Pensions or Allowances must forward their Pension or Allowance certificates, together with a certificate of the fact that they are alive, and a receipt, to the Local Authorities.

Art. XXV.—When recipients of Pensions or Allowances change their place of residence, they must apply, for payment, to the Local Authorities of their new place of residence, three months before the date when their Pension or Allowance falls due. If the application be not made within the prescribed time, the Pension or Allowance will be paid through the Local Authorities of the recipient's former place of residence.

Art. XXVI.—If application for payment of a Pension or Allowance is not made for a year, or upwards, the portion due for that period shall not be paid.

Art. XXVII.—Petitions concerning Pensions or Allowances must bear the counter-signature of the proper Local Official.

Art. XXVIII.—Should a Pension or Allowance Certificate be stolen, lost, or destroyed by accident, the fact must be immediately reported to the Local Authorities for transmission to the Pension Bureau.

(Signed) SANJO SANEYOSHI,
First Minister of State.

4th January, 1884.

NOTIFICATION NO. 1 OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

It is hereby notified that the construction of a submarine telegraph between Kotomo-mura, Higashi, Matsuura-gori, Hizen and Pusan, Korea, *via* Sato-no-ura, Ishida-gori, Oki and Tsukugahara, Shimogata-gori, Tsushima—permission to undertake which construction was granted to the Danish Telegraph Company—having been completed, the line will be connected with the Telegraph Office at Nagasaki; and branches will be established at Tsukugahara and Pusan. The lines will be open on and after the 15th of February next, and the following tariff will be charged.

N.B.—The opening of the branch at Sato-no-ura will be announced hereafter.

TARIFF FOR EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE MESSAGES.

		Interior.		Interior.
		Nagasaki	—	Nagasaki.
		Sato-no-ura	20	30
		25	40	50
Tsukugahara	25	40	50	Tsukugahara.
Pusan	30	50	60	70
Pusan.	30	50	60	70

1.—European messages will be charged according to the above tariff per one word: Japanese, per seven *Katakana* (letters).

2.—*Katakana* will be reckoned per seven; and any fraction of seven shall be counted as seven.

3.—In Japanese messages, the addresses and names will not be charged for. In European messages they will be charged at the same rate as the words in the message itself.

4.—Telegraph communication between Japan and Korea shall be conducted according to the provisions of the International Telegraph Code.

5.—Messages from Sato-no-ura, Tsukugahara, and Pusan, to China and other foreign countries via Nagasaki, will be charged as follows:—Sato-no-ura to Nagasaki 30 cents per word: Tsukugahara to Nagasaki 50 cents per word: Pusan to Nagasaki 70 cents per word.

All further messages will be charged according to the External Telegraph Tariff.

(Signed) SASAKI TAKAYUKI,
Minister of Public Works.

January 15th, 1884.

THE NAKASENDO RAILWAY LOAN AND EXCHANGE BONDS.

(Translated from the *Fiji Shimpō*.)

On the 28th of December last, the Government issued the above regulations. Our readers being acquainted with their tenor, we will now proceed to discuss their merits.

The object for which the Nakasendo Railway Bonds were issued, is, as is mentioned in Article 1 of the Regulations, to construct a railway from Takasaki, Kotsuke, to Ogaki, Mino, *via* the Nakasendo and to defray the cost thereof. It was our earnest wish that Tokiyo should be connected with Osaka, but when the project was first announced, we feared that the work would be delayed. Now, however, the Notification having been issued, we are convinced that the work will be rapidly executed—a fact which gives us unbounded satisfaction. But the projected line is announced only to run from Takasaki to Ogaki, and no provision is made for extending the line west of Ogaki, that is, from Nagahama to Otsu—a distance of 17 *ri*—with the above fund. If it be that the fund—yen 20,000,000—is inadequate to build the railway between Nagahama and Otsu, it might easily be increased by a few more million yen.

In short, the necessity to raise the loan arose out of the want of a line between Takasaki and Ogaki; so, if the extension of the line from Nagahama to Otsu is necessary, it would not be difficult to add a few more million yen to the loan. Is it that the Otsu-Nagahama line is not mentioned in the Public Loan Bonds Regulations because it is believed that the traffic between the two places can be done by steamers on the Lake Biwa? Our views are opposed to this. However great the convenience of steamship traffic may be, it cannot be compared to that of railways. Much more is this the case when the confusion and trouble attending the transfer of cargo and passengers from the cars to the steamers and *vice versa* at Nagahama and Otsu is taken into consideration. Then again, on the passage, the ships may encounter severe gales which endanger their safety. Under such circumstances, the traffic between Osaka and Tokiyo, which would involve much trouble, would be found unworthy of a civilized community. This is, therefore, to be most severely deprecated. If the above short-sighted policy is to be adopted, *kago* can be as well substituted for the tunnels through the Iwagori range and ferry-boats for steamers on the Kiso river. There is no necessity whatever for expending such an immense sum of money for removing a little inconvenience, unless the whole thing be perfected. No satisfactory reply can be made to this argument. The necessity of constructing a line between Nagahama and Otsu, simultaneously with the Nakasendo line, is demonstrated beyond doubt. It is, therefore, unaccountable that the Nagahama-Otsu line was not mentioned in the Notification. If it were intentionally left out, then the reason, we firmly believe, must be, not because the line is considered unnecessary, but because there is another fund for its construction.

As regards the issue of the bonds to raise the funds for the work, we find that they are to be issued as the progress of the work demands, at an annual interest of seven per cent., which is to be paid in June and December. The principal has to stand five years; and, then, it is to be redeemed within twenty-five years by means of drawings. The details in connection with the issue, the amount to be issued, and the price of the scrip, are to be decided by the Minister of Finance. At present, it is extremely difficult to ascertain the condition of the market for such securities. Should the bonds be issued yearly to the amount of, say, yen 2,000,000, no serious effect would be produced in the market. But if they were all issued within the space of a year or a year and a half, the effect would be serious. Considering the existing condition of the market, we find that, though the bonds are worth yen 90, yet, as the market has a peculiar aspect, and is not in a healthy condition, there would be but a small number of buyers who would pay yen 90 for bonds which bear seven per cent. annual interest only, after standing for five years. This is a problem which we cannot solve. Supposing the Minister of Finance should fix no price, they will be issued at yen 90 at first, then at yen 85, owing to no demand, and afterwards at yen 80 or yen 75. Or, reversing the case, they will be issued at yen 75, then at yen 80, yen 85, and yen 90 as the demand becomes brisk. If this method were resorted to, serious injury would arise to the holders of the bonds from their extraordinary fluctuations. This being the case, the Minister of Finance will no doubt avoid adopting such a course. But if he attempts to fix the price, the means which he must adopt will be of an extraordinary character. Indeed, the issue of bonds is a difficult question.

Public Loan Bonds in exchange for *Kinsatsu* were formerly issued; and therefore these are not of the first creation. The first issued were to stand three years and be redeemable in twelve years. Now, they are to stand for five years and be redeemable in thirty years. The old ones were endorsed with the name of the purchaser, while the new ones are transferable. The principle

feature of the latter, however, is that foreigners are allowed to invest in them. The Railway Bonds are similar in this respect. It is the first time since the Meiji Restoration that aliens have been allowed to subscribe to any domestic loan. We believe that the result will be of no little importance.

The bonds are to be issued for the purpose of withdrawing the paper currency; and principal and interest are alike to be paid in silver. The reason underlying this change is apparent without explanation. Originally, the currency system of Japan was based upon a silver and gold standard; and one gold *yen* was equal in value to one silver *yen*. But whatever may be said, when the paper money is redeemed, the Japanese currency system must be based upon the silver standard only, for many years to come. The new bonds are sold for paper money; and when the period of redemption arrives, the principal and interest are to be paid in silver. The new bonds, therefore, present advantageous features; but at present, when the difference between silver and paper money is hardly one-tenth, no benefit would accrue from their possession. With this prospect before him, no capitalist would invest, however great the hopes of the Minister of Finance may be. Thus, so long as the present stagnation continues, nobody will buy the bonds, and their existence will be nominal. Some say that they are not intended for sale alone, but are to be issued on the idea that their presence in the market will check such an unusual rise in the value of silver as was witnessed last year. Should silver stand 150 to 160 against paper money, people could make *yen* 8 or *yen* 9 out of six silver *yen* by buying the bonds. When such is the case, the demand for the bonds will augment to such an extent as to check the fall of the fiat money. Such is the merit of the new bonds. This opinion is plain and simple; but we cannot believe that the bonds are to be issued for no other purpose than that suggested above.

The feature of the two above-mentioned bonds which demands our most serious consideration, is that foreigners are allowed to invest in them. This is of no little importance. Whether or no Europeans will buy them, is a question which we do not desire to answer at present. If forced to answer, we must say that but a few will buy them. Europeans at home are unacquainted with the internal condition of Japan and the Japanese, and, consequently, would not bring capital to invest here, although they may know that the bonds bear seven or eight per cent. interest. Nor would the foreigners living in Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki or Shanghai invest. In our opinion, these Bond Regulations are the initiative steps towards bringing foreign capital into the country at a future time, when the national resources will be developed.

Since aliens are allowed to buy our bonds, they can transact business on the Stock Exchanges at Tokiyo, Yokohama, Kobe, and Osaka. If this is inconvenient, they can have Stock Exchanges of their own in the Settlements. Then, we expect that the business in these institutions throughout the country will be rapidly increased. Should Japanese be brought face to face with aliens in the field of business, they will acquire experience, and finally elevate their position to that of "true" merchants. We cannot but congratulate them upon this prospect. But, as it is, the natural order of things that no good is unattended by evil, the fact of allowing foreigners to invest in the bonds adds to our difficulties.

WEEK OF PRAYER.

SIXTH AND SEVENTH DAYS.

The meetings of the closing days of this week have exceeded all that preceded them in interest and number of the attendants. The addresses of gentlemen in the community, not connected with Missions, in testimony to what changes they had witnessed were emphatic and encouraging, while

the many subjects for request connected with Missions were urgently presented at the throne of Grace. In view of the action of the Evangelical Alliance, recommending the observance of a Second Week of Prayer, it was resolved to continue the meetings at the Seamen's Mission Rooms, No. 86, another week and meet from 5-6 p.m. Also in view of the very special services to be held by the native Churches of Yokohama, to-day, at 9 a.m., and 7 p.m. at the Union Church, it was resolved that to-day's subject be Prayer for the Revival of God's work among the Japanese. Dr. J. C. Hepburn was expected to lead the meeting. The subject for the days following to be Prayer for the revival of God's work among the Foreign Residents of Yokohama.

The Foreign service at the Union Church yesterday morning was largely attended, and the Sermon by Rev. Mr. Klein was of so impressive a character that, as far as possible, we will reproduce it in these columns to-morrow.

The Meeting at 212, Bluff, generally of a very interesting character, was more than usually so in view of a number of interesting facts being stated showing the marvelous movings of God's Spirit at present in Japan among all classes, high and low. The question was raised whether we had a right to believe God would convert all Yokohama? Not a few answered in the affirmative that God could, and it was the duty of all to pray that he would do so, and that in order thereto, we needed most of all to reiterate the Disciples' Prayer, "Lord, increase Our faith!" Attention was called by a sea-faring man to the need of prayer for the observance of the Sabbath on the part of our tea-merchants, owing to the extensive effect of their example upon all classes of the people. He himself could bear witness to the ruin Sabbath desecration had brought to men of business profaning the Sabbath.

CLOSING DISCOURSE.

The Sermon on the text suggested by the Evangelical Alliance for the last Sabbath of the Weekly of Prayer was preached at the Union Church, Yokohama, 13th inst., by the Rev. F. C. Klein, of the Methodist Protestant Mission to Japan, and was as follows:—

1ST THESSALONIANS, 3, 12-13.

"And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."

The Apostle's affection for those who were led to Christ by his efforts was marked, and his wise counsel and godly admonitions to them are profitable unto all. Unquestionably there were reasons why the Thessalonians should increase and abound in love, and that similar reasons exist to-day is, doubtless, why the text has been presented for elucidation. When we stand with earth's unfortunates amid scenes of degradation, where the spray from the rushing current of iniquity falls at our feet, and our hearts sicken at the sight of lawless transgressions, our thoughts turn to the seared innocence of Paradise as the starting point, and the absence of love as the cause which reddened the earth with a brother's blood, and has sent wild, ceaseless pulsations of enmity coursing through the forms of men. 'Tis the reign of malignant hatred to God and man which tarnishes the name of man, and sullies still more his lowered manhood. Human conception can form no realization of a grander work than this, the restoration of fallen humanity, and the reestablishment of its love, elevating and unfolding, as it does, human nature into the image of God; and this sublime work well merited the direct interposition of God in the great act of substitution, whereby the plan of redemption was fully and forever consummated. Why should we abound in love? Because it is God's command, and an essential requisite of Christian character. Because we are the subjects of prejudice; we draw our conclusions with improper motives, influenced, too

often, by local, personal, and other considerations; we are prone to unduly depreciate the merits of others, and unduly magnify our own, and other manifestations make it a necessity for us to increase and abound in love, for as Spurgeon aptly says:—"Love is the marrow of the bones of fidelity, the blood in the veins of piety, the sinew of spiritual strength, yea, the life of sincere devotion." The source of Love is in God, "for love is of God," and the apostle says "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost." A sincere, and an earnest trust in God insures it as an inevitable result, and "The consciousness of its presence in the heart is what makes the Christian," for his newly awakened powers are actively exercised by love as the motive power; and with it he possesses the sure and only foundation of all hopes which are inspired by the acceptance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To properly love we must know something of the object of our affection, consequently knowledge must come in to satisfy and also develop the love possessed. A true man can only love the truth, and as God is truth, the more we know of him the more we can love him. There can be no doubt that love is a creation, for both doctrine and experience teach that he whom God loves, in him he creates love on the principles of cause and effect; for when the man fully realizes that God does love him he loves God in return; and the slightest drawing to him, I may remark, is the result of His Spirit, and should be encouraged by us. Why love one another as Christians? Because "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." "He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." Our hopes centre in a common object, we each seek the same dwelling of the Almighty where alone can come no footstep of decay, and we ought to be closely united in the endeared ties of true brotherly love, for as we feel it will be thus in Heaven, only intensified, why not have it begun here below? "If God so loved us we ought also to love one another." 'Tis human to love those who love us, but the Gospel love is as broad as Christendom, and sweeps out over the whole earth; and if we selfishly limit ours we fall short of the christian standard. The Psalmist never threw upon the canvass of humanity's ever-unfolding picture a more sublime scene than is depicted in "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." With such love as is urged upon us by the Gospel the Christian rises far above the ravings of prejudice, the ambitions of limited self, and the clanishness of church or party, but, loving God most of all, he loves Christians because they are God's children. Therefore this love is a necessity in the life that seeks a steady development here in righteousness, and a full fruition of all hopes in the beyond where life will be lived in its purity, peace, and love. Why should we love all men? God is no respecter of persons, since he loves all men, how can we do otherwise than love them? We must never forget that the soul of the lowest wretch is as precious to him as our souls are to us, and that the same Saviour died to regain him and develop all his faculties. All men, especially sinners, need the warm sympathy of true hearts, and if we turn to them a cold heart we not only disobey God, but stultify our Christian manhood, for if he is ever ready to shed abroad his love in their hearts, how dare we fail to love them. Paul was only a Christian man, laying aside his special gifts and powers, yet feeling his weakness, but here he holds up his manner of love to the Thessalonians, as an example of what their love should be to one another and to all men. To-day we possess the same hopes, privileges, principles, and character-moulding forces of Christianity as he possessed, yet can we begin to say to others what he said to the Thessalonians? Have not God and men the right to expect it of us with the profession we make? None rejoice more than I that we are in these times of true philanthropy and great advance, where the revived principles of a

broad humanics are felt in the widening of thought and feeling, and where the reign of keen asperities, impassioned thought, and embittered prejudice recedes further into the past. But let us be honest, and acknowledge that it is the basis of our Christianity which has caused it, the lever which moves raises and develops the world; that which has done so much to harmonize men's differences, to soften the asperities of their estrangements, to focalize their sympathies and to centralize their efforts, and that upon which all worthy enterprises can rest; 'tis the love of God to man, and man's love to God and his fellow-men. Therefore we, with the moving millions of Christians, who, feeling the common ties, having the common interests of a uniting brotherhood, are panting, amid life's struggles, for the one eternal peaceful bivouac on the marshalled plains beyond, ought, and I trust do, possess the love which rises above the affected friendships of earth, and sees in every man a brother, and has for such a brother's heart and open hand, seeing in him, as in all men, latent powers and possibilities which, if roused and improved, will develop grand results for God and humanity. I honor and love all who thus feel the promptings of a pure unselfish brotherly love; and I would rather far be an humble votary at the shrine of those who, in thought and labor, in life and in death, sought the elevation of the degraded, the broadening of fraternal relations, and the inculcating of principles which bind heart to heart the sons of men, than to stand over the mouldering dust of the greatest warriors who have ever stained the earth with the blood of their fellow men. We are here, as Christians, in these fair isles, not to seek the further degradation of the inhabitants; not, with rude iconoclastic act, to demolish their temples; not to offer them a substitution of rites and ceremonies, neither force on them the emptiness of pretentious vicegerency claims, nor bind their thought; not to turn their allegiance from the Mikado and the powers that be; but with the open Bible—thank God for it in Japan to-day—with its grand principles, glorious doctrines, and inspiring promises, to wage a peaceful warfare in those spheres of thought and feeling where the reason, judgment, and conscience of men are touched and acted upon for their eternal interests. We seek the elevation of the Japanese that they may become what they ought to be, and what they will be by the acceptance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which we believe they will do. And surely while here, far from the associations of our native lands, we need to be closely united in love as God's children, and possess true love for all who tread the soil of the Mikado's Empire. What has our love to do toward having us presented unblameable in holiness? Love is the foundation and ramifier through the superstructure of Christian character; and from it come the natural and expected developments which mark the ornamentation of a pious life, and, if properly used, it can not fail to promote our growth in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. The text assures us that, at the coming of Christ our hearts are to be presented blameless in holiness. Why? Because Christ is holy, and we are to be like him, and because "without holiness no man shall see the Lord." Our condition, and the time when, in that condition, we are to be presented are set forth. To my mind that is clear enough. A man's body is imperfect. Jesus Christ was the only perfect man since the fall. When a man's body is consigned to the grave it is still an imperfect body, but his soul, if he died in the faith of Jesus Christ, will be cleansed by the blood of Jesus, for "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin," and it will be fit for Heaven, and angelic associations. At the resurrection, that body will be raised a prefect, glorious body like unto Christ's. The soul already perfect will reinhabit that glorious body, and thus will be presented unblameable in holiness at Christ's coming. Bear in mind that God is thus to present us there,

at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he can not there thus present us, unless we now commence the work of elevation and growth in grace. Heathen philosophers asked the question, is the soul immortal? Some accepted a kind of affirmative answer, but it was for this divine revelation, with its matchless power to lift the veil of the future, and declare in unmistakable tones that "this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality;" and the words of the Son of God, are "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live." Thus forever are scattered the shadows which hung round the grave, for now we see immortal life rising before us resplendent in unclouded glory, a fixed, immutable verity. We therefore see why the Apostle said "if in this life only we have no hope in Christ we are of all men most miserable," for the future is before us, into it we each must enter, and if alone as we are, where can we go, what can be our hope there without Christ? It is just as easy for me to believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into this world in human form, that his advent was heralded by angelic choirs, and that he received the homage of the wise men of the East in the manger of Bethlehem, as it is for me to believe that George Washington lived and died, on the banks of the Potomac, in the frame house on the slopes of Mount Vernon. And as I rest the interests of my immortal soul on my belief that Jesus trod the streets of Jerusalem, spent that awful season in Gethsamene, was crucified on Calvary, even though "he did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth," that he rose from the sepulchre's gloom and walked and talked with men after his resurrection, so do I as firmly believe he is coming again, because scripture declares it. He himself said, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am ye may be also." No, theory, argument, or anything else is now needed. I can add nothing to this positive declaration from the Son of God. And as not a single statement he made ever fell short, or has ever been proven to be untrue, I am fully persuaded that my belief is settled in One who is both mighty to save, and mighty to come again. The hard, stubborn, immovable fact stands out before the world that he has fulfilled all he promised, in the time designated, and with the gilding of the western hills by the daily setting sun, hastens to us, with silent tread, the dawn of eternity's glad morn. The outlook to-day is flooded with the glory of coming universal triumphs for Christ. Already the camp-fires of the Lord's army are burning on the mountain-tops and in the valleys, lighting up the heathen lands and the isles of the sea. He is coming, surely coming; and then shall be heard the trump's loud alarm, and the glad triumphant song of Christendom, growing louder and louder still as nation after nation catches the grand refrain, till, mingling with the music of the spheres, the universe will magnify the eternal Majesty of the earth and skies. When, in conclusion, is this to occur? I do not know, no man knows, for "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night." A lack of knowledge of when it is to be does not, in any sense, lessen the certainty of its coming. How is it to occur? By the power of the Almighty; "according to the working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself." And the same power which swept victoriously through death's dominions, and triumphantly waved the broken bonds of the grave, will likewise cause "The heavens to pass away with a great noise and the elements to melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein to be burned up." Why will this occur? That Christ's divine sovereignty may be universally acknowledged. "As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God," that the wrongs of earth may be righted, and there are many waiting for that day, and that Jesus may gather his own

from among the children of men. But, while He tarries his coming in visible form, He is here this hour, and knocks at the door of your heart, not only somebody else's, but your heart, for admission, that he may dwell and reign there without a rival. 'Tis his right thus to reign, and if acceded to by each, happy will be the hour, grand will be the life, triumphant will be the death, and glorious will be the crown worn in Heaven. Well, the past is irrevocably passed. If we loved not Christians and all men as was our duty, 'tis now too late to go yonder to do or undo. The record has been closed. May God grant that, taught by our mistakes and encouraged by our successes, we may press boldly onward to the coming struggle, seeking ever to increase and abound in love, looking unto Him who will guide us to the end, and at last will present us unblameable in holiness when He comes.

MEETING OF THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.

The Tenth Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Alliance of Japan took place at 2.30 p.m. on the 10th inst., in the Union Church, Tsukiji, Tokiyo. There was a large representation of ladies and gentlemen members, and a few native gentlemen present.

The President, Rev. Hugh Waddell, called the Alliance to order by a fervent prayer for the purity and spiritual prosperity of the whole Church of Christ in Japan and all the world. This was followed by a Hymn, and the President's address. The latter was based upon a review of the statistics of the advance of Christian work during the past year in Japan. These statistics, he said, though incomplete, were such as might well fill all hearts with gratitude to God, and encouragement to wait more earnestly upon God in the time to come, especially during the present year. The statistics given were as follows:—In 1859, No. of converts, 0; 1876 (17 years later), 1,004; 1879, 2,965; 1882, 4,987; 1883, 6,598. Amount of contribution, 1859, 0; 1879, yen 3,189; 1882, yen 12,344; 1883, yen 16,166. In 1859 copies of scriptures or parts, 0; 1876, 21,000; 1883, 109,003; of bibles or testaments 20,368. 1859, religious books and tracts, 0; 1876, volumes, 6,000; 1883, in Yokohama, American Tract Society, 37,357; London Tract Society, 38,330; Christian and various, 31,620; total 107,307. Two weekly papers, circulation, 2,000; two monthly papers, circulation, 2,700.

After giving the above comparison of statistics, the speaker called attention to the remarkable increase of the past year alone, nearly equalling in numbers that of any three years preceding it. This was great cause for rejoicing, when each one of these sixteen hundred souls was viewed as a temple of the Holy Ghost. If we ask how comes this great increase? The answer was that the Holy Ghost has been specially sought, and here is an answer in some hundreds of souls being added to the Church. If all real Christians, what a glorious sight. If not, many among them are undoubtedly the Lord's true disciples. He then alluded to the Evangelical Alliance having been originally organized to appeal to the Courts of Europe on behalf of religious liberty. Here in Japan, we happily have little occasion to do this. What, then, is the object of our Alliance, asked the speaker unless it be to lift up our hands to the Court of Heaven on behalf of those among this people enthralled in the slavery of sin and superstition. He spoke of the representative character of the Alliance—composed of many nationalities and denominations, yet bound together in the closest bonds of unity and affection. Our mission, then, is only this, to seek the unifying and consecrating influence of the Holy Spirit to dwell in each one of these souls, and make them temples holy unto the Lord. He spoke of the anxiety and apprehension felt by many prior to the conventions

and gatherings together of the past year, lest some cause of disagreement might arise among brethren of so many nationalities and difference of ecclesiastical view. But on coming together as at Osaka, what was the result? Only harmony and fraternity, love and concord. A native brother said to the speaker, "I am astonished to see men of so many nationalities and denominational peculiarities, all rejoicing together and working for the common good." And so again on the return from Osaka, we saw the same thing here in the Great Fellowship Meeting, or Native Evangelical Alliance, when both Native and Foreign laborers were bathed in tears of a common joy at the presence and power of the Spirit of God. The only danger for either the churches or ourselves is that we should ever be without the Spirit of God. As converts increase we should continually cry unto God to fill them with His Holy Spirit, for what with the Spirit's presence might be a virtue, without His presence would easily become a vice. The speaker referred to the contrast that met his eyes to-day and ten years ago on his arrival in Tokiyō. Then, but a few paces from where we now were met, he was present at an examination of Mr. Canother's first candidates for baptism. Now, that little company had become a great host and a power in the land. Wherever we go throughout Tokio, chapels and preaching places stand out, as lights to guide to Christ. But last year's blessing was only a foretaste; we want a wider and deeper one this year. We have plenty of wells, they are sunk on every side, we want them to be filled. He acknowledged the danger of excitement or of mere moving men's sympathy. What we want, is a deep flowing river flooding all hearts, and overflowing the whole land. Think of the thousands of scripture portions in the hands of the people needing the Spirit's illumination to bring its truths to their hearts. Think of the thousands of Christians throughout this land lifting up their hands in prayer with and for us. The speaker alluded to the great pleasure he had experienced in meeting with the native brethren in their observance of this week of prayer. At a place where but a few years ago he had been called to visit a poor sick blind man, and who dying left some to witness to the true light that had irradiated his soul's darkness, now three churches are flourishing in that neighborhood, and as he listened to the remarks of one and another, and their appeals in prayer for the presence of the Holy Ghost, he could not but feel we are all one, all have common wants and common experience of the grace of God. He spoke of the privations and sacrifices of a missionary's life, how dull and unimproving if destitute of the Holy Spirit's presence, but with that presence what a delight now, as of old, to be a missionary. Our joy will be great; our work will endure when all material churches and structures are crumbled to dust. Let us then, as an Alliance, emphasize this as our mission above all else; to seek the Holy Ghost, for ourselves, for the Churches, for each individual heart. He remembered the great revival in Ireland—of whole hamlets turning unto God, but a reaction and coldness set in. He did not believe there was any necessity for a reaction, but if, with increasing desire, God be sought, the blessing may go on widening and deepening till it flooded the whole land. For this purpose let us thank God we are united as an Alliance, and let that Alliance be to call upon God. The President alluded to the presence of Korean Christians here in Japan, and of the visits of Japanese Christian and Bible Colporteurs to Korea, and of the desirability of the love of God dwelling in all hearts and all being made one in Christ Jesus.

This earnest address on the part of the retiring President was followed by the election of officers for the ensuing year, and of a number of persons as members of the Alliance.

The following were proposed and elected members:—Rev. H. Kozaki, Rev. G. F. Smith and wife, Rev. C. E. Garst and wife, Rev. F. C. Klein and wife, Rev. C. H. D. Fisher and wife, Rev. William E. Walz and wife, Rev. J. P. Moore and wife, Rev. J. C. Spencer and wife, Rev. D. C. Spencer and wife, Mrs. Carrie Van Peten, Miss A. P. Atkinson, Miss M. H. Whitman.

The following were elected officers for the ensuing year:—Rev. R. S. MacLay, D.D., President; Rev. E. R. Miller, Vice President; Rev. J. H. Ballagh, Cor. Secretary; Rev. H. Loomis, Rec. Secretary; W. T. Austen, Esq., Treasurer; Rev. H. Loomis, Librarian. Council:—J. C. Hepburn, M.D., LL.D.; Rev. N. Brown, D.D.; Rev. J. L. Amerman, Rev. M. C. Harris, Rev. J. Hartzler, Rev. P. K. Tyson, Dr. C. G. Knott, Rev. A. D. Gring, J. Thompson, Esq., Rev. H. Waddell, Rev. C. S. Eby, Rev. F. C. Klein, Rev. W. J. White.

Following these elections the Committee on Arrangement of Programmes reported having circulated 2,500 in the Japanese language and 400 in

English. They also recommended the adoption of a proposition for observing a Second Week of Prayer especially for the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon Japan, and all flesh, according to the promise in Joel 2-28. The reasons adduced were as a fitting memorial of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Week of Prayer, and especially on account of the very intimate relation of the observance of the Week of Prayer with every advance of mission work in Japan. This was shown in the appointment of Missionaries to Japan by three societies the very year the request for prayer first went forth, and representatives of these societies were able in Japan to unite with their brethren in all the world on the first observance of the Week of Prayer and have continued so to do yearly with ever widening and increasing interest and good results. The request for prayer that was made from Japan during the Week of Prayer 1865, for the removal of the edict against Christianity, was followed not long after by that blessed result. The first outpouring of God's Spirit upon Japan took place in 1872, during the observance of a Second Week of Prayer at beginning of the Japanese New Year, and which resulted in the establishment of the first Church of Christ in Japan. During the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Week of Prayer, the Japan Branch of the Evangelical Alliance had its first Annual Meeting and which now celebrates its Tenth Annual Gathering. Also the revival of 1883 originated in the blessing of God experienced during the Week of Prayer at Yokohama and elsewhere. But the special reason for approval of the recommendation was that it arose from the expressed desire of earnest native Christian workers in Central and South Japan for a special day to follow the present week for that purpose. This proposal led to the suggestion of its being extended to an entire week which also has met with a hearty approval on the part of native and foreign brethren in different parts of Japan. The recommendation was approved of by the Alliance and the committee was requested to make arrangements for united meetings as far as possible with their native brethren.

Following the transaction of these business items, were the address of Dr. C. G. Knott on "Dreams of the Past, and the Facts of the Present;" and an address, by the Rev. A. H. Bennett, on "Allegiance the Strength of Alliance." The former has already appeared in *extenso* in this journal, the latter can only be presented, as the President's has been, in abstract.

Owing to the rapid and easy flow of Mr. Bennett's speech any attempt to reproduce his address must be disappointing to those having experienced the pleasure of hearing him. Not infrequently it happens that addresses affording most pleasure at the time appear quite meagre in print, and vice versa, and those disappointing when delivered give most delight in print. The speaker said that faulty ideas were common in regard to the principles requisite for an alliance of any kind. The two words Allegiance and Alliance in the theme "Allegiance the Strength of Alliance," which he had chosen for his subject had a common origin and might be rendered ad-linking, or joining to, one to peers the other to superiors. Some alliances were without allegiance, as of the Four Kings in Abraham's time, and the defensive alliance of the Canaanites against Joshua; and as were the alliances of men binding themselves to slay others as in David's and Paul's time, which in the nature of things could have no long continuance even if they had ended successfully. Most alliances may be represented by the mighty chain around the dome of St. Peter's binding by its several links every stone together. But a great iron wheel bound together to the centre would be a more fitting representation of the power of Alliance based on allegiance. But some consider that allegiance interferes with alliance. The Jews thought themselves hindered by not being able to join in alliances with other nations. Much as we may have observed how the glazing of some pottery is cracked by the shrinking away of the weightier body of the clay, so the Jews were kept from confederacy with the surrounding nations that they might be a great integer relying upon the Rock of Israel. Is the emphasis to be laid on love our neighbour as ourselves, or on love God first and then let the other come as the various parts of a musical harmony. Attention had been called very properly to the need of prayer for the Spirit of God, but it seems to me that the great and primary duty of each and all is to obey their King and their God; to follow his commands as each may have the knowledge to know His will, and in God's own good time and way we shall be able to keep step with step, and eventually to see eye to eye when the Lord shall build up Zion. The proceedings of the Alliance closed with singing, and the benediction pronounced by the President.

IN H.I.G.M.'S CONSULAR COURT.

Before ED. ZAPPE, Esq., Consul-General.—SATURDAY, 12th January, 1884.

P. BOHM V. THE CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK.

This was a petition for the raising of the arrest on the schooner *Mary C. Bohm* and some skins which had formed part of her cargo and were afterwards transhipped to the British schooner *Ada*. The arrest had been ordered on a motion of the Bank for a debt for which the said property was pledged to it.

Mr. Kirkwood appeared for the Bank, and Mr. Bohm appeared in person.

The following judgment was given on Saturday.

In the action of the coal merchant, P. Bohm, of this place, arrest-defendant, against the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China, at this place, arrest-plaintiff, for the raising of an arrest, the Imperial Consular Court at Yokohama, composed of Consul-General Zappe, gives judgment to the effect that the arrest caused to be put upon the vessel *Mary C. Bohm* is confirmed, whereas the arrest caused to be put upon 358 sealskins is to be raised again. The costs of the litigation are to be borne by plaintiff and defendant, one half by each.

FACTS.

On the 8th November, 1883, the plaintiff bank, for a claim of up to the amount of \$15,000, alleged to be due to it from an agreement of pledge, caused an arrest to be placed on the vessel *Mary C. Bohm*, owned by the arrest-defendant, and on the cargo consisting of 385 sealskins. At the hearing set down for the 10th January, 1884, the arrest-defendant disputes both the claim and the existence of a ground for the arrest, and moves that it be raised. He adduces that since the 8th November last year, the plaintiff has taken no steps to settle the question of the claim disputed by him. In proof of its claim (plaintiff alleges) the bank relied solely upon the document of pledge of the 22nd August, 1882, according to which the arrested vessel *Mary C. Bohm* had been pledged to it for \$44,000. That debt, however, had been paid off by payments which he had made to the bank amounting to \$58,683.70. The pledging of that vessel had moreover only served as an additional security for the amount of about \$44,000, due to the bank in account current, which fact was already shown by that amount being far in excess of the value of the vessel; for the same purpose, and under the same conditions also the other vessels belonging to him had been pledged to the bank. On the 5th November last year he had requested the bank to render him an account, which the bank had promised him in its letter of the 9th November, but up to the present it had not done so, instead of which it had, however, between the 5th and 9th November, caused the arrest to be placed on his ship and her cargo. With regard to the proceeds of the hunt of the *Mary C. Bohm*, he acknowledged having given the plaintiff a promise in his letter of the 30th June last year, to send the skins taken to England, through the plaintiff, for sale, that, however, had been done when he still owed money to him, which was no longer the case. The plaintiff, moreover, with regard to the arrest on the skins, had only relied upon the letter of the 30th June last year, without making credible the claim for which the skins were to be delivered to him. Arrest-plaintiff, for the maintenance of the arrest, quotes sections 797 and 885 of the O. o. C. P., and contends that the demand for the arrest has been sufficiently substantiated by the document of pledge of the 22nd August 1882, and by defendant's letter of the 30th June 1883, which is not disputed. The plaintiff does not dispute that payments have been made to him by the defendant to the amount aforesaid, but alleges that by those payments the debt as shown by the said document of pledge had not been paid. Plaintiff further says that, according to the notes to section 805 of the O. o. C. P., the Court, in a procedure of arrest, was not to go beyond arguing the question whether a claim has been made credible, because only the arrest is the subject of the obligation and not the establishing of the claim. As a ground for the arrest it was sufficient that the defendant made the attempt to withdraw the pledged vessel—which according to the agreement of pledge could only leave the harbour with plaintiff's permission—after this permission had been given for an other-hunting expedition, from the plaintiff's control, by instructing the captain who was then, after that expedition was completed, on his return voyage to Yokohama, not to return to Yokohama, but, after newly equipping himself in the neighbourhood of Yokohama, to go South with the vessel. If defendant had not been prevented from the execution of this purpose by the imposition of

the arrest, then the plaintiff's claim for which the vessel is security, would have been seriously endangered. With regard to the 358 sealskins the plaintiff contends that the arrest on the same has not been carried out. In any case, it was no longer in force, because the skins, in consequence of an agreement with the defendant, and with permission of the Court, had since been sent to England for sale. Should the Court, however, in spite of this, still consider them to be under arrest, then with regard to them also the letter of the defendant of the 30th June 1883, and the document of pledge of the 22nd August 1882, would be sufficient for the substantiation of the claim and of the ground of arrest, combined with the illegal proceedings of the defendant already described. For those reasons the plaintiff moves that the arrest be confirmed. Defendant moves that the witness Baade be heard to contradict the grounds of arrest asserted by the plaintiff.

GROUND.

For the maintenance of the arrest of the vessel *Mary C. Bohm* and her cargo, consisting of 358 sealskins, which was ordered on the 8th November last year, on a motion of the plaintiff and against the deposit of a security, it is required, that plaintiff in accordance with the provisions of section 800, al. 2, of the C. o. C. P. make credible both the claim, which is to be secured by the maintenance of the arrest, and a proper ground for the arrest. To the first requirement, the plaintiff has in so far conformed as he shows by the document of pledge of the 22nd August 1882, that the arrested vessel is thus pledged to him, so as to make himself paid out of the vessel, in default of payment of the debt set down in the document of pledge at \$44,000. It is true defendant raises the objection that that debt has been paid off by payments amounting to \$58,683.73 which he made to the plaintiff, but as the plaintiff disputes that those payments were made against the debt on the pledge, this contention of the defendant which has not been proved, cannot be considered in the present proceeding. With regard to the pledged vessel, the ground for the arrest also is to be considered as sufficiently established. According to the tenor of the above-mentioned document of pledge, the pledged vessel may only leave the harbour of Yokohama with the permission of the pledge-creditor. If the plaintiff, by way of exception and in the defendant's interest, gives him the permission to let the vessel make a particular voyage, for an agreed upon purpose, and if defendant, after this has been done, without the consent of the plaintiff gives the order to the vessel—the same then being on the return voyage to Yokohama—to avoid Yokohama, and to extend the voyage, which then might have been considered as nearly completed, in another direction, which is in direct contradiction to the agreement with the plaintiff, then the plaintiff is justified in regarding this proceeding of the defendant as endangering the claim which was to be secured by the previous pledging of the vessel. The conduct of the defendant has only been confirmed by the evidence of the witness Baade as contrary to the agreement. Under the circumstances of the case the arrest on the pledged vessel had to be confirmed. With regard to the arrest on the 358 sealskins, the establishment of the claim, as required by the provisions of section 800, al. 2, of the C. o. C. P., is wanting. Even if the conclusion be drawn from defendant's letter of the 30th June, 1883, that the plaintiff at the time when that letter was written to him, had an undisputed money claim against the defendant, for which the skins in view were to be transferred into his possession, the letter in question does not afford the least information as to the amount of the claim and whether it still exists. Nor have there been other circumstances adduced by the plaintiff through which the existence of a claim other than the claim on the pledge already argued, is made probable. Nor has the plaintiff given the Court any clue to judge, whether for the securing of his claim, as pledge creditor, a further security, besides the arrest on the pledged vessel, can be demanded by confirmation of the arrest imposed on the skins. For the plaintiff has not at all named the amount of the sum which, he alleges, defendant owes him, and, although, according to the document of pledge, the vessel is security for a claim of \$44,000, he has only moved for the arrest to the amount of \$15,000, and does not at all assert that the arrested vessel is not worth that sum. The confirmation of the arrest which has been imposed on the 358 seal-skins, had therefore to be denied. The contention of the plaintiff that no arrest had been imposed upon the skins, and that even if the arrest had been decreed, it was no longer in force, because of the shipment of the skins to England in the mean time, is an erroneous one. According to the records, the arrest on the skins has been decreed, and it can only be raised by the decision of the Court. The arrest thus decreed is

not made illusory by the fact that the skins which form its object, from reasons of advisability, and on a motion of the parties before the Court, have been handed over to a third party for sale, for the proceeds of the sale take the place of the object under arrest, and remain deposited in Court till a final decision has been given on the arrest. The decision with regard to the costs is in accordance with section 88 of the C. o. C. P.

THE SILK TRADE OF JAPAN.

The following is taken from Messrs. Griffin & Co.'s Half-yearly Silk Report, just published:—
RAW SILK.

In reviewing the Trade for the past six months, we observe the following salient points:—

- 1.—The enormous Export (no less than 23,704 bales); being, without exception, the largest crop ever handled at this port since the opening of Japan to foreign trade.
- 2.—The great increase in "Direct shipments by Japanese;" these amounting for the six months to 5,654 bales, against a total of 2,006 for the same period of last season.
- 3.—The reappearance on this market of *Sodai* and *Taysaam* sorts, the like not having been offered in quantity for many seasons past.
- 4.—The generally moderate scale of prices, which have been rendered still more unremunerative to dealers by the marked appreciation of *Kinsatsu*. These, which in the first part of last season ranged about 160, have recently averaged 110 per \$100.
- 5.—The aspect of the crop as to quality.

1st. EXPORT.—Looking at the comparative tables at the end of this report, we see that the figures show a total of 23,704 bales for the half-year; or an excess over last season of no less than 5,409 bales. The increase is greatest in the export to Continental Europe (4,990 bales); next comes the United States with an increase of 960 bales; while to England there is a decrease of 541 bales.

In this connection we would notice the rapid growth of the trade in America; seven years ago the export was but 62 bales for the six months, now it is 6,856—an increase of more than a hundred-fold. It is curious to note that the excess of Export to New York over last year is entirely made up of increased shipments on native account, and is more than counter-balanced by the shrinkage in the output of the North China crop. The American demand has in fact run strongly upon *Kakeda* and other *Oshu* silks, to supply the falling off in re-reel *Tsattees* from Shanghai.

It will be seen also that fully three-fifths of the silk exported (or say 14,462 bales) has found its way to Southern Europe. Fashion would seem to have run upon goods requiring fine silks; and notwithstanding the good average *raccolta* in Italy, there has been a current demand in the Lyons market for good Japan raws. Coarse kinds also have been freely shipped to fill the expected short supply of *Taysaams* from China.

The trade to Great Britain, once so important, appears to be slowly but surely on the wane; and it would seem—however well English manufacturers may be able to hold their own in some branches of the trade—that the industries of Silk-throwing and weaving are certainly passing into other hands. The shipments to London (which seven years ago were equal to one-half the total export) have now declined to the insignificant figure of 2,386 bales; or, say one-tenth part of the whole (23,704)—one-third of that to the United States (6,856)—and less than one-sixth of the export to France (14,462). With increased financial and Banking facilities, shipments can now be made direct to the markets of consumption; the business of London as an *entrepôt* has in consequence much diminished, and the quantity of silk actually used in Great Britain is only sufficient to support a feeble trade in the Raw material.

2nd. DIRECT SHIPMENTS.—The statistics show an excess of 3,648 bales over the total at 31st December, 1882. Of this increase 984 bales have gone to New York and 2,664 to Europe. Various theories have been started to account for the sudden activity displayed by native shippers, some holding that the Government were remitting money in silk instead of in bullion or Bills of Exchange, while others take the alarmist view that Japanese have determined to do their own business without foreigners' intervention. However this may be, there is no doubt that, at least, some of these "Direct Shipments" have resulted unsatisfactorily, and at the time of writing such business has been much curtailed.

3rd. COARSE SILKS.—A prominent feature in the present season has been the large supply of

good *Hamatsuki*, *Sodai*, *Nagahama*, and other coarse silks, such as are not commonly exported. Foreigners have been ready buyers of these kinds, the rumoured short crop in the *Taysaam* districts of North China furnishing a good opening for similar silks from Japan. On the other hand, the fact of Japanese being also ready sellers would seem to argue a general unhealthy state of the interior trade, as these kinds usually form the bulk of the raw material used in the native looms.

4th. PRICES.—The season opened on 22nd June at high rates, in sympathy with markets in Europe which had experienced a sharp rise on a rumoured failure of the crop in Italy and France. Here on that day, \$540 was eagerly paid for some ordinary *Maibashi* grading 2½ to 3, with \$490 for *Hachioji*. Within a week prices had dropped fully \$40, when it became known that, after all, the Italian crop would be a fair one.

July.—This month opened with still lower prices, business passing on a basis of \$475 for *Maibashi* Hanks averaging 2½. By the middle of the month there was a little more tone in the market, and the top quotation for 2½ Hanks rose to \$500. Filatures from Koshu province made their appearance about this time, and were found to be bright in color and of good quality, No. 1 being dealt in at about \$630. The month closed weak on a fall of \$10 in Hanks, desirable Filatures holding their own. Settlements for all July 1,400 piculs.

August.—Business began in earnest during the first half of this month; supplies came in more freely; holders were firm, and prices generally were well maintained. This state of things continued all through the month, which closed with a strong market for all classes. *Kinsatsu* rose from 125 to 115, and producers began to complain bitterly that their already attenuated profits were in consequence still further reduced. Settlements in August total 3,100 piculs.

September.—The market being now fairly well supplied with nearly all grades, both buyers and sellers settled down to hard work; and *Hamatsuki* sorts began to show in the daily list at slightly higher prices. Up to the middle of the month the market was active; scarcity of money among the dealers made them current sellers; *Sodai* and *Yechizen* kinds put in an appearance; arrivals of all descriptions came in freely from the interior, and a good business was done. This continued along with a slight reduction in prices, and the end of the month found us with a settlement-list of 4,900 piculs and a stock on hand of 5,000 piculs.

October.—Prices wilted during the first few days and business was in full swing, purchases averaging 150 piculs a day; all classes were freely taken, a marked preference being given to *Oshu* and full-sized silks. The same state of things continued throughout the month, prices drooping and buyers operating freely as rates declined. Sellers were ready to do business, and the transactions for October are returned as 5,400 piculs, shipments of Filatures and *Kakedas* to New York being well up on the list.

November.—The very low range of prices now reached induced free buying and business went on apace. By the middle of the month Hanks sorts were lower than they had been for years—Good average *Shinshu* being weighed at \$455. From this point things began to mend; better news arrived from Europe and sellers managed to establish an advance all round. Filatures were also freely bought, medium kinds at lower prices, while the better classes were well supported. The U.S. Mail steamers leaving October and November took large cargoes, shipments on Japanese account being specially heavy. Transactions during the month, 6,000 piculs.

December.—Business generally fell off: holders had recovered some of their *sang-froid* and began to express hopes of better times, the stronger among them resolving to wait until the turn of the year before realizing further. Supported by better news from European markets, prices were raised, especially for Hanks; by the middle of the month the strength extended to other kinds, and demand ran strong in the direction of coarse *Taysaam* sorts. This course of events was further accelerated by still better reports from Lyons, and the year closes with settlements in *Shinshu* Hanks at fully \$35 per picul above the lowest point touched in November. Reports from New York were not so good, owing to forced sales there of Japanese-held silks, and buyers for that market were proportionately discouraged. Stocks of good desirable silks, however, are small, and holders maintain a strong position believing that the beginning of 1884 will bring higher prices. The general feeling, both among buyers and sellers, seems to be that good descriptions suitable for the U.S. market will be scarce for the next two or three months. Settlements for December 2,200 piculs, bringing the total for the half-season up to 23,000 piculs.

5th. QUALITY.—In spite of some complaints in certain districts as to light yield, there is no doubt

that the crop has been exceptionally good both in quality and quantity. From Oshu province the arrivals have been especially good; *Kakedas* (which now embrace *Haremitchi*), *Sendai*, and *Hamatsuki* being alike plentiful. In *Filatures* and *Re-reels*, some of the producers who have a reputation to maintain have turned out good, trustworthy silk; while other chops, especially in the Medium Grades, have been uneven and unreliable as of old.

It is beyond question that the production of Raw Silk in Japan is capable of much greater extension; and, if reellers will carefully attend to the quality of what they produce they may rest assured of a good demand for their wares in the future.

WASTE SILK.

The trade in this important article shows a steady growth during the last few years as will be seen by the Tables on the other side. The recent advance in the art of Silk-spinning has combined with the requirements of fashion to cause a good demand for Waste Silk generally, and notably for the high-class *Kibiso* and *Noshi-ito* of Japan. The manufacturers of the North of England claim that in "spinning" they can hold their own against all competitors; and certain it is that a fair proportion of the fibre exported hence finds its way to Great Britain. Large quantities have also been shipped to Marseilles *en route* for Switzerland and other manufacturing centres; but shipments to the United States have been small, and it would seem that the trade there is yet in its infancy. Out of a total export for the six months of 16,689 piculs, about 16,000 have gone to Europe and not more than 700 to America.

The market opened in the latter half of July by the settlement of about 100 piculs *Noshi* and *Kibiso*. *Pierced Cocoons* also began to come in, but no transactions were effected until later on. During August, buyers and sellers settled down to work and a considerable business was done at good

prices:—Best *Filature Noshi* bringing \$155, and Best *Filature Kibiso* \$125; Good *Joshu Noshi* being quoted \$90 to \$95. This state of affairs continued till the middle of October when business slackened off, buyers looking for concessions in price, and by the beginning of November quotations for *Kibiso* generally, and *Joshu* kinds of *Noshi-ito*, were reduced \$10. On this level buyers again came in, and the year closes with prices somewhat above the lowest point, the available Stock in Yokohama being reduced to 800 piculs. There should be considerable supplies in the interior, but dealers assert that the present range of prices does not offer much inducement to bring them down.

PIERCED COCOONS—The supply of these has not been large and the export to date is 1,933 piculs against 3,065 on 31 Dec. last. Best qualities, giving heavy per-centage, have not been plentiful, and prices have been fairly steady on basis of—Common, \$80; Medium, \$90; Good, \$100; and Best \$110. There should be some yet to come down; but they may be held over for what producers would consider better times. The bulk of purchases were made as usual in August and September.

NOSHI-ITO.—A large business has been done in this class, and transactions have ranged from Common *Hachoji* up to the Best *Filature* kinds, with extra quality and length of fibre. Demand has been good for *Noshi* from *Joshu* province grading "Good Medium to Good," while best fine sorts have also found buyers at full rates. *Oshu* has been sought for all along at from \$140 to \$150 per picul, and good *Shinshu* has been freely taken at \$110 to \$100. At the time of writing, Stocks of all kinds are reduced to a minimum and "arrivals" come in dribbles.

KIBISO.—"Filatures" and the better kinds of *Hank* sorts have been eagerly taken, especially during the last two months; after the drop in prices noticed above buyers came in freely and the

demand has fully equalled the supply. Medium and Low *Kibiso* have also at times had their turn, and the year closes with scarcely 600 piculs in stock, the bulk of same being low undesirable kinds. Quotations have recovered something of the fall in good to best descriptions, these being scarce and wanted.

MAWATA.—For the first few months next to nothing was done, sellers and buyers being wide asunder with respect to price. Latterly business has resulted at \$175 to \$195 for *Oshu*, according to grade; and the market has been practically cleared at about these figures.

EXCHANGE.

During the six months, shippers have had the benefit of fairly low rates without great fluctuations. Credits on London at 4 months' sight opened at 3/8½; dropped temporarily to 3/8½; hardened to 3/8½ as the season got well underway; improved another farthing by the end of September, bounding by quick steps to 3/10 at the beginning of November. (The great stagnation in Imports and consequent preponderance of Exports had caused a real scarcity of dollars; but the stringency soon passed when news came in reporting shipments of bullion from East and West.) Thence to date a fairly steady market, about on the level of 3/9½, closing weak.

KINSATSU.—Those important factors in the native merchants' calculation have seemed persistently adverse to his interests throughout the period under notice: quotations at the opening of the season being 133 per \$100, or about 15 per cent. less than at the opening of last season when the rate was called 156 per \$100; a steady appreciation continued with slight fluctuations until, in November, business was done at less than 110, showing a further loss to the dealer in silk of another 18 per cent. Since that date currency has varied between 107 and 110, closing fairly steady at about 109 *yen* per 100 silver dollars.

EXPORT TABLE JAPAN RAW SILK FOR THE HALF-SEASON COMPARED WITH RECENT YEARS.

	Dec. 31, 1883.	Dec. 31, 1882.	Dec. 31, 1881.	Dec. 31, 1880.	Dec. 31, 1879.	Dec. 31, 1878.	Dec. 31, 1877.	Dec. 31, 1876.
	BALES.	BALES.	BALES.	BALES.	BALES.	BALES.	BALES.	BALES.
France and Italy ...	14,462	9,472	4,171	4,910	5,330	7,579	8,657	9,137
United States	6,856	5,896	2,674	3,460	3,148	1,536	611	62
England	2,386	2,927	1,953	2,497	4,831	3,548	8,420	9,235
Total	23,704	18,295	8,798	10,867	13,309	12,663	17,688	18,434

UNSOLD STOCK OF RAW SILK IN YOKOHAMA AT SAME DATES.

	Dec. 31, 1883.	Dec. 31, 1882.	Dec. 31, 1881.	Dec. 31, 1880.	Dec. 31, 1879.	Dec. 31, 1878.	Dec. 31, 1877.	Dec. 31, 1876.
	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.
	4,400	4,300	9,000	5,400	3,300	3,300	1,200	2,000

RAW SILK QUOTATIONS (SEMI-MONTHLY) COMPARED WITH 1882.

	No. 1 SHINSHU HANKS. 1883. 1882.	Good 2½ JOSHU HANKS. 1883. 1882.	FILATURES NO. 1 10-13 DENIERS. 1883. 1882.	FILATURES BEST NO. 1, 14-16 DENIERS. 1883. 1882.	FILATURES GOOD NO. 2, 14-18 DENIERS. 1883. 1882.	RE-REEL BEST NO. 1, 14-16 DENIERS. 1883. 1882.	KAKEDA GOOD NO. 2. 1883. 1882.	HAMATSUKI NO. 2. 1883. 1882.
July 15...	\$530	\$500 \$490	\$655	\$635 \$670	\$650	\$650	—	—
July 31...	535	490 500	650	640 680	620 650	610 650	\$570 \$620	—
Aug. 15...	\$525 520	490 485	650 \$640	640 660	620 640	620 645	570 580	\$460 \$480
Aug. 31...	525 530	500 500	550 645	640 650	620 630	620 630	560 570	470 470
Sept. 15...	520 540	490 520	640 650	640 660	610 630	620 625	555 575	480 470
Sept. 30...	510 550	485 530	630 660	630 670	590 640	610 630	550 580	480 470
Oct. 15...	500 535	475 510	620 660	610 660	590 635	600 630	545 580	480 470
Oct. 31...	490 525	400 500	615 650	590 650	575 625	590 620	545 570	470 470
Nov. 15...	475 520	450 500	600 640	590 640	570 620	580 620	540 560	455 460
Nov. 30...	480 525	455 500	600 635	595 620	570 590	580 600	540 560	455 460
Dec. 15...	500 530	470 505	610 640	600 625	580 590	585 605	540 570	470 470
Dec. 31...	500 535	475 510	610 645	610 630	580 590	585 610	545 580	470 475

EXPORT TABLE WASTE SILK FOR THE HALF-SEASON COMPARED WITH RECENT YEARS.

	Dec. 31, 1883.	Dec. 31, 1882.	Dec. 31, 1881.	Dec. 31, 1880.	Dec. 31, 1879.	Dec. 31, 1878.	Dec. 31, 1877.	Dec. 31, 1876.
	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.
Waste Silk	14,756	11,876	8,987	9,569	10,833	5,993	3,915	3,613
Pierced Cocoons ...	1,933	3,065	2,560	713	3,858	1,836	3,015	3,768
Total Piculs ...	16,689	14,941	11,547	10,282	14,691	7,829	6,930	7,381

UNSOLD STOCK OF WASTE SILK IN YOKOHAMA AT SAME DATES.

	Dec. 31, 1883.	Dec. 31, 1882.	Dec. 31, 1881.	Dec. 31, 1880.	Dec. 31, 1879.	Dec. 31, 1878.	Dec. 31, 1877.	Dec. 31, 1876.
	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.	PICULS.
	800	3,500	2,800	2,214	470	450	—	—

WASTE SILK QUOTATIONS (SEMI-MONTHLY) COMPARED WITH 1882.

	PIERCED COCOONS, BEST 1883. 1882.	BEST FILATURE AND OSHU NO. 31. 1883. 1882.	BEST SHINSHU NOSHI. 1883. 1882.	GOOD ASSORTED JOSHU NOSHI. 1883. 1882.	BEST SELECTED FILATURE KIBISO. 1883. 1882.	BEST OSHU KIBISO. 1883. 1882.	MIDDLING JOSHU KIBISO. 1883. 1882.	BEST OSHU MAWATA. 1883. 1882.
July 15	—	—	—	\$112	—	—	—	—
July 31	—	\$145	—	\$90 110	—	—	\$40 \$55	—
Aug. 15	—	150 \$160	—	90 115	— \$135	— \$110	40 55	\$210
Aug. 31	\$110 \$115	150 170	\$160	87½ 120	\$125 145	125	40 55	210
Sept. 15	110 115	150 170	160	87½ 120	125 145	120	40 55	205
Sept. 30	110 115	150 170	160	90 110	125 140	120	40 50	210
Oct. 15	110 110	150 165	145	90 95	125 140	120	40 50	210
Oct. 31	107½ 105	150 165	\$110 145	87½ 95	115 135	\$100 115	37½ 50	\$195 205
Nov. 15	107½ 105	145 160	110 140	85 95	120 135	100 115	35 50	195 205
Nov. 30	107½ —	150 160	110 140	84 95	120 135	100 110	35 45	190 200
Dec. 15	107½ —	150 160	110 140	83 95	117½ 135	97½ 110	35 45	185 205
Dec. 31	—	150 160	110 140	85 95	117½ 135	97½ 110	35 45	185 205

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, January 15th.

AFFAIRS IN EGYPT.

Baker Pasha meditates the transfer of the base of operations to Massowah.

The Abyssinians are stated to be friendly.

London, January 11th.

AFFAIRS IN EGYPT.

The Egyptian Government has decided not to abandon Suakim.

The evacuation by the civil population of Khartoum has been ordered.

London, January 14th.

RATIFICATION OF THE LESSEPS CONVENTION.

The *Gaulois* states that the British Government has ratified the Lesseps Convention, protecting the interests of British shipowners. *The Times* denies this.

[FROM THE HONGKONG "DAILY PRESS."]

London, 2nd January.

THE REVENUE FOR 1883.

The revenue for the past year amounts to £90,000,000, showing an increase of £3,690,000 as compared with that of the previous year.

London, 4th January.

THE RISING IN THE SOUDAN.

The threatening of Upper Egypt by the Mahdi and his followers is engaging the serious attention of the British Government at present.

A Cabinet Council was held yesterday, when Egyptian affairs were discussed. The Council is summoned again for to-day.

It is rumoured that an important decision in connection with the measures to be adopted to cope with the rising in Egypt is imminent.

London, 5th January.

ENGLAND AND EGYPT.

The Egyptian Government has sent a vigorous Note to the British Government, stating that if England refuses assistance in the Soudan the Egyptian Government will relinquish the Eastern portion to Turkey.

London, 7th January.

THE CABINET COUNCIL ON THE EGYPTIAN CRISIS.

At the Cabinet Council held on Saturday no decision was arrived at respecting the steps to be taken by the British Government in Egypt for the preservation of order should the Mahdi continue to advance.

BRITISH REPLY TO THE EGYPTIAN NOTE.

The British Government, in reply to the Note sent by the Egyptian Government, state that they have no objection to Egypt giving up the eastern portion of the Soudan to Turkey, nor would they object to a Turkish expedition for the suppression of the rising in that country, provided that the whole expense of the same was charged to the Turkish exchequer.

TIME TABLES.

YOKOHAMA-TOKIO RAILWAY.

The Trains LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 7.30, 8.45, 9.30,* 10.15, and 11.30 a.m., and 1.00, 2.30, 4.00,* 5.00, 6.15, 8.00, 9.15, and 10.30† p.m.

The Trains LEAVE TOKIO (Shinbashi) at 7.30, 8.45, 10.00,* 10.45, and 11.30 a.m., and 1.00, 2.30, 4.00,* 5.00, 6.15, 8.00, 9.15, and 10.30† p.m.

Those marked with (*) run through without stopping at Tsunimi, Kawasaki, and Omori Stations. Those with (†) are the same as above with the exception of stopping at Kawasaki Station.

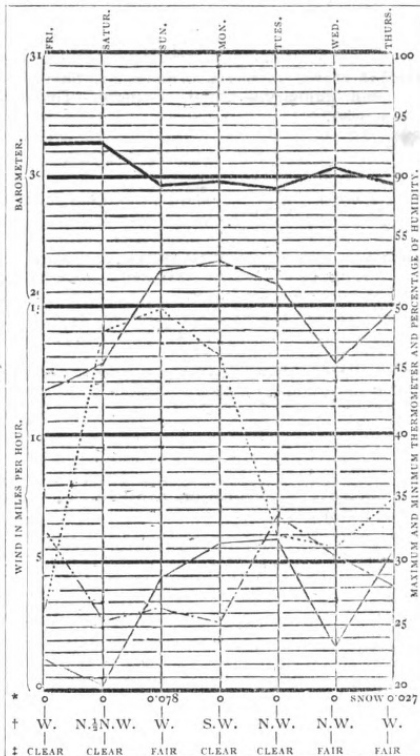
YOKOSUKA STEAMERS.

The Yokosuka steamers leave the English Hatoba daily at 8.50 and 10.30 a.m., and 12.15, 2.30, and 4 p.m.; and leave Yokosuka at 7.15 and 9 a.m., and 12 m. and 1.45 and 4.00 p.m.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

FOR WEEK BEGINNING FRIDAY, JANUARY 11TH, 1884.

Observatory of Daigaku, Moto-Fujicho, Hongô, Tokiyo, Japan.



REMARKS.

Heavy line represents barometer.

Light continuous line—maximum and minimum thermometers.

--- represents velocity of wind.

The barometer is reduced to the freezing point and to the level of the sea.

* Rain in Inches. † Direction of Wind. ‡ Weather.

Maximum velocity of wind 23.0 miles per hour on Tuesday at 7 a.m.

The highest reading of the barometer for the week was 30.303 inches on Saturday at 10 a.m., and the lowest was 29.820 inches on Tuesday at 2 p.m.

The highest temperature for the week was 53.2 on Monday, and the lowest was 20.4 on Saturday. The maximum and the minimum for the corresponding week of last year were 53.5 and 20.8 respectively.

The total amount of rain and snow for the week was 0.105 inches, against 0.108 inches for the corresponding week of last year.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Shanghai, Nagasaki, & Kobe ... per M. B. Co. Thursday, Jan. 24th.

From Europe, via Hongkong, per M. M. Co. Wednesday, Jan. 23rd*.

From America ... per P. M. Co. Monday, Feb. 11th.†

* *Falga* (with French mail) left Hongkong on January 16th.† *City of Rio de Janeiro* left San Francisco via Honolulu on January 15th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Hakodate ... per M. B. Co. Saturday, Jan. 19th.

For America ... per O. & O. Co. Sunday, Jan. 20th.

For Kobe ... per M. B. Co. Sunday, Jan. 20th.

For Shanghai, Kobe, and Nagasaki ... per M. B. Co. Wednesday, Jan. 23rd.

For Europe, via Hongkong ... per P. & O. Co. Saturday, Jan. 26th.

For Europe, via Hongkong ... per M. M. Co. Saturday, Feb. 2nd.

The arrival and departure of mails by the Occidental and Oriental, the Pacific Mail, and the Peninsular and Oriental Companies, are approximate only.

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES.

Christ Church: 11 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

Union Church: 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Roman Catholic Church: 8 and 9.30 a.m.

English Church, No. 12, Sakaicho, Shiba, Tokiyo: 11 a.m.

CHESS.

Solution to Chess Problem of 29th January, 1884,

by M. Hans Seeberger de Gras.

White.

Black.

1.—B. to Q. 7.

1.—Q. takes P. ch.

2.—R. covers and ch.

2.—Q. takes R. ch.

3.—Q. takes Q. mate.

if 1.—B. takes P.

2.—Q. to Q. 2, takes

2.—K. takes P.

P. and ch.

3.—Q. or Kt. mates.

if 1.—K. takes P.

2.—R. to Q. 5.

2.—Anything.

3.—Q. mates.

if 1.—Q. to R. 6.

2.—R. to B. 3, ch.

2.—K. takes P.

3.—B. mates.

Correct answer received from "TESA."

NOTES FROM JAPANESE PAPERS.

It is said that two men-of-war are under orders to visit Europe.

The ward-offices experience considerable pressure of business, owing to the recent revision of the Conscription Regulations.

The Yokohama Gas Company propose to reduce their rates of lighting both houses and streets.

The Buddhist priests have held meetings respecting the Conscription Regulations. The Chief priests of different sects from various localities, have arrived in the Capital to forward a petition to the Government praying that those who have successfully passed the Theological School shall be exempt from service.

Emigration to Hokkaido shows an increase of 738 as compared with last year.

In rural districts great confusion prevails owing to the military service having been made compulsory. In the prefecture of Shiga, seventeen ward officers have been arrested on suspicion of having assisted the people to evade the conscription. In the prefecture of Shizuoka, young girls have been espoused or young boys have been given inheritances, in the idea that married men and heirs of families are exempt from the service. The engravers are consequently busy in making stamps for the people who require them for making application to the ward offices.

A few days ago a curious accident occurred in Benten Dori. A servant in a watchmaker's shop was cleaning a clock with kerosene. Suddenly the oil took fire; and the man, naturally, threw the vessel outside the shop. It fell into a bucket of water, and the flames spread over the surface. The unwitting author of the mischief made matters worse by rushing out and kicking the bucket over so effectually that the burning oil not only flashed over the street but caught the clothes of a passer-by, who had the presence of mind to throw off his garments, and escaped with some burns on his arms and legs.—*Mainichi Shimbun*.

A fort will be erected at Hishijima, Sagami, in the prefecture of Kanagawa.

The guns of the *Tsukushi Kan* have been tried at Boshu and the results were most satisfactory.

A letter from Ogasawara-jima (Bonin Islands), dated the 28th of December last, says:—On the 5th of October, Chichi-jima was visited by a most severe gale, increasing in force toward 2 p.m.; houses and trees were demolished. At 5 p.m. the wind changed from S.W. to S.E., when all danger was over. Next day, the local officers went round the villages on a tour of inspection and found the roads impassable owing to the ruins of houses, trees, and rocks which were strewn about. The damage to the rice fields was considerable. In Hana-jima, the damage to houses was less severe, only five being destroyed, but the rice-fields suffered most severely. Coffee planted for experimental purposes has suffered more or less severely. In Kiyodai-jima, the damage was confined to trees.—*Choya Shimbun*.

LATEST SHIPPING.

FREIGHTS.

The berth continues to be well filled with steam tonnage for usual destinations, but there is little doing in coastwise freights. The German steamer *Hesperia*, 1,136 tons has been chartered, Nagasaki to this port, \$1.15 per ton, and several small sailing vessels have found employment from Formosa to Yokohama with sugar. Although freights are low, there appears to be no more tonnage idle at the moment than is usual at the time of year in China and Japan.

ARRIVALS.

Kiyokawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 62, Emada, 12th January, —Shimidzu 10th January, General. —Seiriussha.

Mikuni Maru, Japanese steamer, 412, Taneda, 14th January, —Kobe 11th January, General. —Seiriussha.

Oceanic, British steamer, 2,350, Davison, 14th January, —San Francisco 22nd December, Mails and General. —O. & O. S.S. Co.

Onoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 104, Sugimoto, 14th January, —Fukuda 11th January, General. —Handasha.

Koweki Maru, Japanese steamer, 63, Omura, 15th January, —Yokkaichi 12th January, General. —Kowyekisha.

Kengi Maru, Japanese steamer, 236, Masuda, 15th January, —Yokkaichi 12th January, General. —Kowyekisha.

Saikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 102, Nonaka, 15th January, —Toba 12th January, General. —Seiriussha.

Kairio Maru, Japanese steamer, 370, Amano, 16th January, —Handa 14th January, General. —Handasha.

Saiko Maru, Japanese steamer, 65, Minoura, 16th January, —Sakada 13th January, General. —Seiriussha.

Shidzuoka Maru, Japanese steamer, 334, Nakai, 16th January, —Shimidzu 13th January, General. —Seiriussha.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,216, James, 16th January, —Kobe 13th January, General. —Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Toyoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 648, Thomas, 16th January, —Hachinohe 13th January, General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,862, J. Wynn, 17th January, —Shanghai and ports, Mails and General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Kamtchatka, Russian steamer, 702, Ingman, 17th January, —Kobe 15th January, General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Matsushima Maru, Japanese bark, 444, Yamashita, 17th January, —Oginohama 10th January, Rice and General. —Takahasha.

Kashgar, British steamer, 1,515, W. J. Webber, 17th January, —Hongkong 9th January, via Nagasaki and Kobe, Mails and General. —P. & O. S.N. Co.

Arabic, British steamer, 2,787, W. G. Pearne, 18th January, —Hongkong 12th January, Mails and General. —O. & O. S.S. Co.

Shario Maru, Japanese steamer, 457, Streamer, 18th January, —Yokkaichi, 15th January, General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Taganoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 459, Matsumoto, 17th January, —Yokkaichi 15th January, General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,097, Hubbard, 18th January, —Hakodate 15th and Oginohama 16th January, General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 728, Hussey, 18th January, —Kobe 16th January, General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Matsumaye Maru, Japanese steamer, 472, Sakai, 19th January, —Hakodate 16th January, General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Kiyokawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 62, Imada, 13th January, —Shimidzu, General. —Seiriussha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 806, R. N. Walker, 14th January, —Kobe, Mails and General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Okame Maru, Japanese steamer, 148, Ichishima, 14th January, —Handa, General. —Handasha.

Seisho Maru, Japanese steamer, 210, Isoda, 14th January, —Kobe, General. —Seiriussha.

Oceanic, British steamer, 2,350, Davison, 15th January, —Hongkong, Mails and General. —O. & O. S.S. Co.

Hesperia, German steamer, 1,136, J. Wagner, 15th January, —Hamburg via ports, General. —Simon, Evers & Co.

Ise Maru, Japanese steamer, 748, J. J. Efford, 15th January, —Kobe, Mails and General. —Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Dzukai Maru, Japanese steamer, 97, Shimidzu, 16th January, —Atami, General. —Tokai-kaisha.

Koweki Maru, Japanese steamer, 63, Omura, 16th January, —Yokkaichi, General. —Kowyekisha.

Shima Maru, Japanese steamer, 230, Okuma, 15th January, —Yokkaichi, General. —Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,229, C. Young, 16th January, —Hakodate, General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 670, Lambert, 16th January, —Yokkaichi, General. —Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Nagoya Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,900, Wilson Walker, 16th January, —Shanghai and ports, Mails and General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Saikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 102, Nonaka, 16th January, —Toba, General. —Yamamoto & Co.

Seirio Maru, Japanese steamer, 459, Tamura, 9th January, —Yokkaichi, General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Kanagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,196, Eckstrand, 17th January, —Nagasaki, General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Onoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 104, Sugimoto, 17th January, —Handa, General. —Handasha.

Loretta Fish, American ship, 1,847, H. A. Hyler, 18th January, —Hongkong, Ballast. —China and Japan Trading Co.

Mikuni Maru, Japanese steamer, 412, Taneda, 18th January, —Kobe, General. —Seiriussha.

Kamtchatka, Russian steamer, 701, Ingman, 18th January, —Kobe, General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Shario Maru, Japanese steamer, 759, Tokuta, 18th January, —Yokosuka Dock. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Shidzuoka Maru, Japanese steamer, 334, Narita, 18th January, —Shimidzu, General. —Seiriussha.

Taganoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 454, Matsumoto, 18th January, —Yokkaichi, General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, James, 18th January, —Hakodate and Otaru, General. —Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Kairio Maru, Japanese steamer, 370, Amano, 19th January, —Yokkaichi, General. —Handasha.

Menzaleh, French steamer, 1,384, B. Blanc, 19th January, —Hongkong, Mails and General. —Messageries Maritimes Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kiyokawa Maru*, from Shimidzu:—12 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Mikuni Maru*, from Kobe: 16 Japanese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, from San Francisco:—Mr. E. J. Smithers, U.S. Consul, Rev. and Mrs. T. W. MacNair, Rev. and Mrs. F. W. Voegler, Miss Ada Johnson, Lieutenant F. P. Gilmore, and Mr. D. Marcus in cabin. For Hongkong: Mrs. M. Griffith, Messrs. F. Koch, A. Scheffer, and Ichangio H. Kothari in cabin; and 800 Chinese in steerage. For Shanghai: Rev. and Mrs. Henry M. Woods and John H. Wisner in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Onoura Maru*, from Fukuda:—6 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Kengi Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—11 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Kairio Maru*, from Handa:—10 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Saiko Maru*, from Sakada:—2 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Totomi Maru*, from Kobe: Governor Tokito, Governor Orita, and 12 Japanese in cabin; and 35 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Toyoshima Maru*, from Hakodate:—5 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiroshima Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Tsuruda, Mrs. Tsuruda and child, Messrs. A. Coye, M.

Willett, C. W. Phipps, T. A. Eckstrand, Murakami, Toyomi, and Akaba in cabin; and Mr. Hilsten in second class; and 1 European, 3 Chinese, and 86 Japanese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Kashgar*, from Hongkong via Nagasaki and Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. Bishop, Messrs. Tobler, Voight, and Illies in cabin.

Per British steamer *Arabic*, from Hongkong:—For San Francisco: Captain R. Cass and Mr. M. Frank in cabin; and 82 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Shario Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—105 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Taganoura Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—Mr. and Mrs. Shitayama, Messrs. T. Ito, and T. Ichioke in cabin; and 98 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, from Hakodate via Oginohama:—Rev. and Mrs. Belioz, Messrs. J. D. Jordan, Okigawa Fukuzo, Okigawa Taki, Tachibana Kinjiro, Uchida Sansei, and Tsuda Yoshitsugu in cabin; and 112 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Tsuruga Maru*, from Kobe:—15 Japanese.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiogo Maru*, for Kobe:—1 Japanese in cabin; and 31 Japanese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Oceanic*, for Hongkong:—Mrs. M. Griffith, Messrs. H. Koch, A. Scheffer, and Ichangio H. Kothari in cabin; and 800 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagoya Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Nakauchi, mother and 2 children, Rev. and Mrs. H. M. Wood, Mr. E. J. Smithers, U.S. Consul, Mrs. Mayfield, Miss Annie Stone, Lieutenant Gilmore, U.S.N., Captain Gordon, Messrs. J. Potter, H. V. Love, F. J. Speshitoff, M. Machanoff, A. Stopford, A. J. Caswell, R. Hamilton, John H. Wisner, S. Inouye, Fukui, K. Iwase, Kobayashi, Sato, Sakurai, K. Kawada, and J. Hasegawa in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Seirio Maru*, for Yokkaichi:—30 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, for Hakodate:—Mr. S. Irimajiri in cabin; and 63 Japanese in steerage. For Oginohama: Mr. T. Takayama in cabin.

Per Russian steamer *Kamtchatka*, for Kobe:—5 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Taganoura Maru*, for Yokkaichi:—Messrs. A. Patterson and D. Crowe in cabin; and 50 Japanese in steerage.

Per French steamer *Menzaleh*, for Hongkong:—Messrs. E. Terpee, 3 children, and 1 servant, Gabriel Jourdan, Stephen Earnbull, George Lisle, Francis Roberts, A. Morelli, and Robert Johnstone in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagoya Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$111,920.00.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiroshima Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$102,711.19; for San Francisco, \$47,095.00.

Per French steamer *Menzaleh*, for Hongkong:—Silk, for France, 655 bales; for England, 18 bales; Total, 693 bales.

REPORTS.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, Captain John C. Hubbard, reports leaving Hakodate on the 15th January, at 6 a.m. with moderate westerly breeze and snow to Oginohama, where arrived on the 16th, at noon, and left on the 16th, at 6.30 a.m. with light westerly winds and fine weather to Kawatsu; thence to port fresh northerly winds and rainy weather. Arrived at Yokohama on the 18th January, at 11 a.m.

SHIPPING IN YOKOHAMA.

STEAMERS.

Arabic, British steamer, 2,787, W. G. Pearne, 18th January, —Hongkong 12th January, Mails and General. —O. & O. S.S. Co.

Godavery, French steamer, 1,049, Du Temple, 14th October, —Hongkong 7th October, Mails and General. —Messageries Maritimes Co.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,862, J. Wynn, 17th January, —Shanghai and ports, Mails and General. —Mitsu Bishi M. S.S. Co.

Kashgar, British steamer, 1,515, W. J. Webber, 17th January, —Hongkong 9th January, via Nagasaki and Kobe, Mails and General. —P. & O. S.N. Co.

Meiji Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,010, Captain Allen, 14th December, —Lighthouse Inspection, Stores. —Lighthouse Department.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

No material change has taken place in the demand, and prices do not admit of alteration, in many instances the quotations below being quite nominal.

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16 to 24, Common to Medium	\$24.50 to 27.50
Nos. 16 to 24, Good to Best	28.25 to 29.25
Bombay, No. 20, Good to Best	25.00 to 27.00
Nos. 28 to 32, Common to Medium	29.00 to 30.00
Nos. 28 to 32, Good to Best	31.00 to 33.25
Nos. 38 to 42	34.00 to 36.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.
Grey Shirtings—8½ lb, 38½ to 39 inches... ..	\$1.70 to 2.15
Grey Shirtings—9 lb, 38½ to 45 inches... ..	1.85 to 2.30
T. Cloth—7 lb, 24 yards, 32 inches	1.35 to 1.45
Indigo Shirting—12 yards, 44 inches	1.50 to 1.75
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.10 to 2.40
Cotton—Italians and Sateens Black, 32 inches	PER YARD.
Turkey Reds—2 to 2½ lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	0.07 to 0.09
Turkey Reds—2½ to 2½ lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.15 to 1.45
Turkey Reds—2½ to 2½ lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.45 to 1.60
Turkey Reds—3 lb, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70 to 1.82½
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	6.50 to 7.25
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches... ..	0.60 to 0.70
Taffachelas, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.75 to 2.05

WOOLLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches	\$3.50 to 5.25
Figured Orleans, 29-31 yards, 31 inches	3.25 to 4.00
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches	0.18 to 0.28
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.14½ to 0.16
Mousseline de Laine—Itajime, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.18½ to 0.25
Mousseline de Laine—Yuzen, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.30 to 0.38½
Cloths—Pilots, 54 to 56 inches	0.30 to 0.40
Cloths—Presidents, 54 to 56 inches	0.40 to 0.50
Cloths—Union, 54 to 56 inches	0.30 to 0.55
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 6 to 5½ lb, per lb	0.35 to 0.40

IRON.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, ¼ inch	\$2.50 to 2.85
Flat Bars, ½ inch	2.80 to 2.90
Round and square up to ½ inch	2.80 to 2.90
Nailrod, assorted	2.35 to 2.60
Nailrod, small size	2.85 to 3.15

KEROSENE.

A sale of 5,000 Devoe was reported yesterday at \$1.72½; otherwise, no business has been done during the past week. Holders are, however, firm and look for an advance. Deliveries have been 19,000 cases.

	PER CASE.
Devoe	\$1.72
Comet	1.69
Stella	1.58

SUGAR.

Business continues to a retail extent only, and prices are unchanged.

	PER PICUL.
White, No. 1	\$8.00 to 8.35
White, No. 2	6.75 to 7.00
White, No. 3	6.30 to 6.50
White, No. 4	5.80 to 6.00
White, No. 5	4.60 to 4.75
Brown Formosa	3.90 to 4.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Since our last issue of the 10th instant, we have had a quiet Market with but moderate business, Settlements for the week being returned as 400 piculs. Arrivals have been very scanty, and this combined with some demand for native requirements has reduced the available Stock to 3,700 piculs. Prices are nominally without change; but (with some exceptions) may be said to be the turn in buyer's favor. Still further depressing news from New York has caused almost a cessation of buying for that quarter. The bulk of the business done has been in Common Re-reel and Filature kinds grading very low in the scale.

The P. & O. mail steamer *Khiza*, which left on the morning of the 12th instant, carried 563 bales; of which, 482 were entered as going to France and

81 for England, Japanese exporters being again well represented. These figures bring the total Export up to 24,624 bales, against 19,007 to same date last year, and 9,479 the year before.

Hanks.—Business in these has fallen away, and very little has been done. Prices are nominally unchanged, but it is likely that firm offers for a quantity at a trifle under present quotations would lead to business. Among the few purchases made we notice Omama, \$480; Joshu, \$475; Annaka, \$470. Stock is stationary at last week's figures.

Filatures.—Again fine sizes of good quality have been sought after, and true 10/13 denier silk has commanded its price: Common and mixed Filatures have also been in demand at from \$510 to \$550 per picul. Buyers for the New York Market have again held back for better times and lower prices; meanwhile, good desirable sorts are scarce and firmly held. Among the recorded business we observe some fine-sized Shinshu at from \$610 to \$620. In coarse sizes the little doing ranges from *Nihonmatsu* at \$635 down to common rejections at \$500.

Re-reels.—Rather more doing in these, demand running chiefly on 2½ to 3. Anything Good is firmly held, and the Stock on offer embraces *Shinshu* "Fan" chop \$610 "Helmet" \$585. In *Maibash* "Turtle" chop is offering at \$590, and two or three lots "Five Girl" have been settled at \$580. Other kinds down to "Inferior" at \$550, \$545, \$535, and \$525 according to quality.

Kakeda.—Very little doing in this class, and the small purchases made have been more than counter-balanced by the return of silk previously taken into godown. All quotations must be considered more or less nominal except for quality grading 2½ to 3 which is enquired for at late rates.

Oshu.—About 60 piculs have changed hands among which are *Sendai* \$490 and *Hamatsuki* \$470 to \$445. Stock same as last reported.

Taysaam Kinds.—A sale of *Shimada* reported at \$420, beyond this nothing done.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	Nom.	\$510 to 520
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)		495 to 505
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)		485 to 495
Hanks—No. 2½ (Shinshu)		480 to 490
Hanks—No. 2½ (Joshu)		470 to 480
Hanks—No. 3		455 to 465
Hanks—No. 3½		440 to 450
Filatures—Extra		625 to 635
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers		610 to 620
Filatures—No. 1, 14/16 deniers	Nom.	610 to 620
Filatures—No. 1½, 14/17 deniers		595 to 605
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers		590 to 600
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		580 to 590
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		550 to 560
Re-reels—No. 1, 14/16 deniers		580 to 590
Re-reels—No. 1½, 14/17 deniers		595 to 575
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers		555 to 565
Re-reels—No. 3, 14/20 deniers		530 to 540
Kakedas—Extra		605
Kakedas—No. 1	Nom.	585 to 595
Kakedas—No. 2		540 to 550
Kakedas—No. 3		520 to 530
Oshu <i>Sendai</i> —No. 2½		470 to 480
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2		470 to 480
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4		420 to 440
Sodai—No. 2½	Nom.	400 to 410

Export Tables Raw Silk to 17th Jan., 1884:—

	SEASON 1883-84.	1882-83.	1881-82.
France and Italy	15,028	9,870	4,720
America	7,114	6,154	2,674
England	2,482	2,983	2,085
Total	24,624	19,007	9,479

WASTE SILK.

There has been rather more doing in this branch; Settlements for the week about 400 piculs, again equally divided between *Noshi-ito* and *Kibiso*. Stocks are slightly increased, but desirable parcel are scarce, and command full rates especially *Joshu Noshi* and *Filature Kibiso*.

Pierced Cocoons.—Without change; no transactions, and no Stock worth mentioning.

Noshi-ito.—Good sorts in demand, and business done in *Filatures* at \$130 to \$135 (for a parcel *Toniyoaka* \$160, perhaps \$155 is asked); *Oshu*, \$145; *Joshu*, Best Fine, \$110; Good Medium, \$87½; Common, \$65. Supplies are not coming in very freely, and the Market is fairly supported at the advance.

Kibiso.—The week has seen a marked rise in

Filature kinds, Best *Shinshu* having touched \$125, with ordinary "Cocoony" at \$117½. A little done in *Oshu* at \$97½, with something passing in low kinds of *Joshu* and *Hachoji* at \$40, \$30, \$18, and \$15. Stock shows a slight increase.

Mawatta.—No transactions: a few bales have come in from the country, bringing the Stock in Yokohama up to 110 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Medium to Fair... Nom.	\$ 90 to 100
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	155
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	135
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	115
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	140 to 150
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	Nom. 110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	Nom. 100
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	Nom. 90
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	110 to 115
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	90 to 92½
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	80 to 85
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	125
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	115 to 120
Kibiso—Oshu, Good	95
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	85
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	65 to 70
Kibiso—Joshu, Fair to Common	50 to 35
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 17½
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	18 to 10
Mawatta—Good to Best	Nom. 175 to 185

Export Table Waste Silk to 17th Jan., 1884:—

	SEASON 1883-1884.	1882-1883.	1881-1882.
Waste Silk	15,517	12,442	9,674
Pierced Cocoons	1,948	3,065	2,560
Total	17,465	15,507	12,234

Exchange has steadied on basis of following quotations:—London 4 m/s. Credits, 3/8½; Documents, 3/8½; New York, 30 d/s., 90; 60 d/s., 90½; Paris 6 m/s., fcs. 4.72½. *Kinsatsu* have not fluctuated greatly, and close 109½ to 109 per \$100.

Estimated Silk Stock 17th Jan., 1884:—

	RAW.	PICULS.	WASTE.	PICULS.
Hanks	1,800		Pierced Cocoons	80
Filature & Re-reels	900		Noshi-ito	270
Kakeda	500		Kibiso	690
Sendai & Hamatsuki	400		Mawata	110
Taysaam Kinds	100			
Total piculs	3,700		Total piculs	1,150

TEA.

The same desultory kind of business reported in our last Market Report continued up to the 14th instant, when daily Settlements only amounted to 55 piculs; for the past four days, however, an increased demand has been ruling, and total Settlements for the week show an increase over previous Settlements for like period for some time back. Prices again have a firmer tendency, especially for Teas grading above Medium which are in very small supply. Receipts from the country during the interval have about balanced the demand, and Stocks are about the same as they were a week ago. Total Settlements for the interval are about 695 piculs, and comprise the following grades:—Good Common 135, Medium 305, Good Medium 90, Fine 70, Finest 20, and Choice 65 piculs. The cargo of the *City of Peking*, despatched on the 10th instant, consist as follows:—For New York, 15,654 lbs.; for Chicago, 4,385 lbs.; for Portland (Oregon), 150 lbs.; and for California, 67,201 lbs.; making in all for United States 87,390 lbs. Fired Tea.

QUOTATIONS.

Common	\$10 & under
Good Common	12 to 14
Medium	16 to 18
Good Medium	20 & up/ds

EXCHANGE.

There is little or no change to report in rates during the week. Transactions have been small, and quotations at the close are steady.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/8½
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/8
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/8½
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/9½
On Paris—Bank sight	4.64½
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4.75½
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1/10 dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	72½
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	89½
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	90
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	89½
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